London Unmasked.

The world's Epitome we hold to view.
It's Follies, Foibles, Vices here descry.
To each Spectator hold a Mirror true.
As sage, discerning, and as faithful Spy.

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LONDON UNMASK'D:

FOR THE

NEW TOWN SPY.

EXHIBITING A STRIKING PICTURE OF

THE WORLD AS IT GOES.

In a Ramble through the Regions of NOVELTY, WHIM, FASHION and TASTE, as found in the Cities of

LONDON and WESTMINSTER,

THEIR PURLIEUS AND VICINITIES.

Containing a Complete Picture of the

METROPOLIS and its INHABITANTS.

With the various HUMOURS, FOLLIES, FOIBLES, VICES, and ABSURDITIES, generally practiſed throughout

LONDON AND ITS ENVIRONS.

ALSO

A full and juſt DISPLAY of the moſt Striking SCENES exhibited in

THE GAY CIRCLES, THE THEATRES, GARDENS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES OF Modern Faſhionable Entertainment.

INCLUDING

A General and Picturesque Repreſentation of the moſt ſingular Characters THAT INHABIT THIS GREAT METROPOLIS:

Whether conſidered as VICIOUS, RIDICULOUS, HUMOROUS, or anyways worthy the PEN of SATIRE;

PARTICULARLY

Fortune-Hunters	Loungers, or Time-Killers	Duelliſts
Matrimonial Brokers	Military Fribbles	Rapacious Quacks
Modern Meſſalinas	French, Italian, and other Foreign Leaches	Griping Uſurers
Diſſipated Fops		Black Legs
Demireps		Body Snatchers, &c. &c.
Sycophants		

THE WHOLE REPRESENTING

STRIKING CARICATURES

OF THE

Various Inhabitants of the GREAT METROPOLIS, as

"IN DIFFERENT WAYS THEY RUN,
"SOME TO UNDO, AND SOME TO BE UNDONE."

BY THE MAN IN THE MOON.

LONDON: Printed for WILLIAM ADLARD, No. 10, SALISBURY SQUARE, FLEET STREET.

INTRODUCTION.

Sketch of the Author, his Plan, and Deſign.

WHEN any thing novel in the province of letters is offered to the public, curioſity naturally prompts to an enquiry into the birth, parentage, and education of the author. If his name has been affixed in avowal of any former brat of fancy, an eſtimate is paſſed of the merit of the latter, in proportion to the rank he bears in the literary ſcale of modern criticiſm; if otherwiſe, he is too frequently conſigned to oblivion with the herd of his unfortunate brethren of the quill; who, through towering ambition, have aſpired to the arduous height of Parnaſſus, though their poor Pegaſus has foundered, ere they could be ſaid to have reached the aſcent.

Notwithſtanding the comparatively ſmall number who have ſucceeded in the various purſuits which reſpectively engage the human attention, and call forth the exertion of the mental powers, through the prevalence of the *Cacoethes edendi*, on the one hand, and the *Cacoethes ſcribendi* on the other; freſh adventurers ſtart up every day, and the preſs teems with a more redundant and complicated farrago of productions than ever, though a cruel impoſt on the moſt neceſſary implement in the manufacture of ideas ſeems to threaten, if not a bankruptcy, a general ſuſpenſion of commerce, one of its moſt uſeful and entertaining branches ———.

As the moſt egregrious follies and palpable abſurdities obtain a kind of ſanction from cuſtom, and every man in the judgment of candour, is permitted to ride his own hobby horſe, provided he annoys not his neighbour; this humble attempt puts in a claim for indulgence with others, ſubmitting its merit to the candid deciſion of thoſe who may chuſe to paſs a vacant hour in its peruſal.

Having perambulated not only the reſpective capitals of each of the three kingdoms, but moſt of their cities, towns and villages, from a propenſity to the ſalutary exerciſe of walking, as well as deſire of viewing men and things as they preſent themſelves to obſervation in the grand diſplay of nature; the

author

author assumes the name of *Peripatetic*, under which denomination, without arrogating the addition of philosopher, he proposes to descant on the different objects that particularly excited his notice in and about this metropolis, which being, it is presumed, a world in miniature, affords ample scope for humour and sentiment, and enables him to furnish that sort of entertainment for his kind readers, which is called the *Utile dulci*.

As a character eminently superior to all others, he has ever been ambitious of acquiring and maintaining that of a *man*, which however degraded by fanaticism or misconception, implies the possession of such qualities, that not only atone for defects naturally incident to humanity, either in a mental or moral sense, but afford a conscious pleasure, as well as conciliate a general esteem; in a word, he disdains the thought of palliating vice, flattering a monarch, or insulting a beggar.

Other attempts having been rather confined to the descriptive and illustrative, than the moral and sentimental plan; in the present, chief attention will be paid to the latter, though not to the exclusion of the former, when it tends to the explanation or embellishment of any subject that may require its introduction.

As it is ſaid upon another occaſion, "he that runs may read," or, according to Shakeſpear's beautiful idea, "ſermons may be gathered from ſtones, and good from every thing;" there is ſcarcely an object, from which we may not derive either an incentive to virtue, or a diſſuaſive from vice. Nay, as ſome from diſpoſition muſt be lured into good behaviour, and others laſhed into it; the rigorous ſcourged of ſatire becomes equally wholeſome with the lenient attractive of encomium, and many may be whipped or laughed out of follies and even vices, that have long reſiſted the power of admonition.

Upon this principle the rectitude of the preſent deſign may plead for ſuch defects as will be too obvious in the execution; and though it eſcapes the deſerved cenſure of critics, it may meet with the approbation of the candid and ingenious.

Natural imperfections and perſonalities will be cautiouſly avoided, as it is the virtues and vices, and not the perſons of men at which the aim either of eulogium or ſatire will be directed; therefore, if any ſhould behold their own portrait, or think that they behold it, their conſciences will beſt judge whether or not the mirror reflects truly; and they will remember the old adage; "If the cap fits, wear it."

Moral

Moral as well as natural philoſophy, notwithſtanding the degree of perfection to which it has arrived, may probably be illuſtrated, if not improved, and an humorous or ſatirical ſtroke introduced in characteriſtic ſketches of this kind, if propoſed, may produce a happier effect than a ſolemn harangue on the moſt exalted ſubjects or important occaſions.

The moſt intereſting inferences are deduced from the plaineſt principles, and the ſimpleſt occurrences in life afford the moſt uſeful and inſtructive leſſons.—Nature pleaſes moſt, affects moſt, in its homelieſt garb; and to moralize upon principles of nature muſt reach all who are not dead to its genuine feelings. In every claſs, from the moſt elevated to the loweſt ſphere, it is the ſame; its operations, however diverſified in mode, are in effect the ſame; for nature will ſpeak in all its works with moſt miraculous and powerful organ.

Inſtantaneous impulſe and the immediate ſuggeſtion of fancy, generally picture objects and mark characters in the ſtrongeſt light, and a ſingle impromptu from the glow of imagination may exceed numerous laboured and languid deſcriptions.

The Peripatetic, throughout his tour, will look with an obſervant eye before, behind, and around him, nor paſs, if poſſible, the minuteſt ſubject that appears worthy of notice.

To embelliſh moral beauty, to expoſe moral deformity, to plead the cauſe of virtue, and laugh vice out of countenance, muſt be approved as a beneficial and conſequently a laudable deſign; and as the ſcope is extenſive, and therefore may furniſh novelty, as well as variety, it is hoped he will eſcape the imputation of having waſted paper, or treſpaſs'd on the time and patience of his readers from vain or mercenary views, eſpecially if it appears to have been his endeavour to follow the Poet's maxim:

" Eye nature's walk, ſhoot folly as it flies,
" And catch the manners living as they riſe."

POPE.

BRITISH
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MUSEUM

CHAP.

CHAP. I.

Morning domeſtic Scene—Inſtance of parental Cruelty — Dire Effects of EO—Anecdotes of a Beau—Contemplations, Philoſophical and Moral.

ON a fine ſerene ſummer's morning, after an hour or two's contemplation in my bed on the wonders of Providence in the ſucceſſion of the ſeaſons, and all the various beauties of creation which conſtantly ſurround us; between the hours of five and ſix I determined to ariſe, in order to take a turn in the fields, and enjoy at once the ſalutary pleaſures of exerciſe and contemplation.

The ſons of induſtry had formed the ſame reſolution of riſing, wiſely judging this the beſt time for labour, as the man of ſcience does for ſtudy; and I was happy to obſerve my neighbours around me, chearfully betake themſelves to their reſpective occupations. But as I deſcended from my chamber, I could

not

not but liſten to a violent altercation between my landlord and landlady, concerning the time of the day; the former of whom, having been engaged in one of thoſe nocturnal ſocieties, which are the bane of health as well as buſineſs, could not be perſuaded, by the moſt ſolemn aſſurances of the good woman, that it was his uſual hour of ſhaking off ſlumber, and applying himſelf to thoſe duties of life which appertain to the maintenance of the family, and are deemed the huſband's particular department. "O! dire effects of "liquor, noiſe and nonſenſe, productive of "waſte of money, waſte of time, loſs of rea- "ſon, incapacity for life's moſt important "purſuits, and a train of evils that diſqualify "us for every office, civil, ſocial, or do- "meſtic."

The ſtreets preſented a variety of objects, and though it was an early hour, ſuch was the buſtle and hurry, paſſing and repaſſing, as plainly indicated this to be, by way of eminence, the buſy world. But this amuſing ſpectacle of apparent buſineſs was followed by a ſcene horridly ſhocking to the humane beholder.

This was a ſet of unfortunate wretches, male and female, pining or ſlumbering on the ſtone ſteps, leading to the entrance of a church. A more motley group of variegated woe was never beheld; probably (thought I) the miſery of the far greater part is owing to themſelves; their want of induſtry, or want of principle, has deprived them of the power

of

of obtaining the paltry pittance of one poor penny, with which to purchaſe a night's repoſe on a bed of ſtraw in ſome wretched hovel, whoſe tottering ruins beſpeak impending danger, and threaten the immediate diſſolution of the deplorable tenants.

" Be it ſo, they are ſtill objects of pity, " (whiſpered humanity) and as ſuch, en- " titled to a little temporary relief at leaſt." This ſuggeſtion produced ſome enquiry on my part, and indeed I found my opinion rather juſtified upon the whole. There was one ſtriking exception in the perſon of a female, who, amidſt all the havock of the complicated miſeries of hunger, diſeaſe, and nakedneſs, ſtill retained ſome faint remembrance of faded beauty, and by the pertinent manner of her replies to queſtions aſked, gave proofs of an education above the common level. She did not appear pleaſed with dwelling on the melancholy ſubject of the cauſe of her then ſituation; but gave me to underſtand, in language poignant as deſcriptive, that, ſeduced by the wiles of a faithleſs man, ſhe had yielded to his importunities in the niceſt point; which gained, he immediately abandoned her; and that her inexorable father, on diſcovery of the ſame, by means ſhe could no longer conceal, with greater cruelty, had turned her out of doors to prey on fortune; ſince which time ſhe had paſſed gradually through a ſeries of proſtitution and its attendant curſes, till reduced to the ſtate in which I beheld her.

Pe-

Petrified with her affecting narrative, I entreated her pauſe, dropped my mite, and took my departure. Indulging my ſentimental vein, "Good heaven (I exclaimed) what a "father! The ſeducer's crimes are of the "moſt aggravated kind; but the inhumanity "of the parent beggars all deſcription. The "former might urge ſome plea from paſſion "incident to youth and conſtitution; but "the latter, in abandoning a child for one "deviation from duty, to the wide world, is "a monſter of barbarity, as execrable in "idea, as deteſtable in practice. Mercy is "the moſt effectual means of reclaiming from "folly and vice, it is the darling attribute "of the divinity, and to ſhew mercy, is the "perfection of humanity."

As I turned the corner of a ſtreet near the church, the approach of which had exhibited the former melancholy ſcene, I was brought back, by a pull of the coat, from an old friend, who, at this early hour, was regaling himſelf with a baſon of ſaloop and a biſcuit, by way of conſoling, as he expreſſed it, for having been ſtripped of all his caſh, to one ſolitary ſhilling, at a game lately practiſed, called E O. I have ſo natural an averſion to the vice in general, that I never enquired into the particulars of this new mode of picking the pockets of infatuated fools. Several gentlemen (as they are termed from external appearance) have been pointed out to me as deriving all their gentility from divers ſources of fraud and chicane. If theſe reſpectable

mem-

members of ſociety can but elude the law, and keep their necks out of the halter, they never ſuffer any qualms of conſcience to diſturb their reſt; in ſhort, they are continually in queſt of what they term pidgeons; that is, young perſons of fortune without experience or prudence to direct them; who eaſily fall a pray to their devices, to their emolument and their own ruin.

Amongſt theſe was my unfortunate friend, who on the demiſe of his father, with the little all bequeathed him, having purchaſed a commiſſion, had lately returned home with his regiment that was recalled from foreign ſervice. He had acquitted himſelf with honour, and obtained a recommendation from his general as deſerving the notice of his ſovereign for ſervices rendered to him and to his country.

I parted with him in a few minutes, but not without taking the liberty of diſſuading him in a friendly manner from a practice of all others the moſt bewitching and deſtructive. He thanked me for my counſel, and promiſed attention to it; but ſuch is the infatuation of this pernicious habit, in ſpite of all the remonſtrances of others and our own reſolutions, that in a very ſhort time I was informed he had put a period to his exiſtence, by the aid (as he had been heard to phraſe it) of a friendly ball. Thus ruſhed into an unknown ſtate a youth of promiſing talents, approved valour, and liberal diſpoſition; would to heaven he had not fallen by his own hand!

" Suicide

" Suicide has by many been deemed incom-
" patible with genuine courage; and it has
" been accounted a moſt flagrant inſtance
" of cowardice to ſink under thoſe ills that
" Providence inflicts: much more ſo then
" muſt it be according to that maxim, to
" deſpair under thoſe which are the abſolute
" reſult of our own miſconduct, our own
" vices. Yet how many inſtances have we
" had of this, in characters apparently brave
" and virtuous? Frail is our compoſition,
" imperfect our beſt reſolves, defective our
" moſt exalted attainments, and however we
" may boaſt our knowledge, ſad experience
" teſtifies that, comparatively ſpeaking, we
" know nothing, our wiſdom will prove itſelf
" beſt in keeping conſtant guard over our
" paſſions, which unreſtrained are our moſt
" powerful and deſtructive enemies."

I had not proceeded many paces, before I was accoſted by an unfortunate beau, who on his return from a ball, where he had been exhibiting his charming perſon to delight and captivate the ladies, was vilely beſpattered by a party of thoſe neceſſary odoriferous adjutants whoſe work commences when that of others ceaſes. This gentleman expreſſed a wiſh that I would aſſiſt him in taking cognizance of, and bringing to condign puniſhment, thoſe miſcreants who had ſo egregiouſly inſulted his perſon and aſperſed his property, the latter of which he deemed by far the greateſt injury, as he could with leſs difficulty pocket an affront, than repair the damage done to his moſt

faſhionable

faſhionable ſuit. I begged to be excuſed from an office diſagreeable to myſelf and unavailable to him, perſuaded that an attempt to reaſon or remonſtrate with theſe knights of the golden order, would only incite them to add inſult to inſult, nor was I much diſpoſed to ſhare the fate of the beau.

However, I adviſed him to retire to a coffee-houſe, and accompanying him thither, found, in the courſe of converſation, whilſt his coat was cleaning, that he was one of thoſe gentlemen with which the town and every aſſembly in it are conſtantly infeſted; I mean a gentleman conſtituted ſo merely by dreſs, being totally ignorant of every punctilio that marks the man of faſhion.

In this opinion of my caſual companion, I was ſoon confirmed, by the aſſurance of a perſon in the next box, that he had often taken him by the noſe in the way of his profeſſion; in a word, my beau in maſquerade was in reality a journeyman barber; upon diſcovery of which, I gave him a bow in his own ſtile, and made my exit.

" Surely, (ſaid I to myſelf) the world is " one ſcene of maſquerade, and every cha- " racter appears under covert. Formerly the " externals marked rank and degree, but " now, if we would form a true eſtimate, the " moſt probable means ſeems to be that of re- " verſing appearances. To ſo notorious a " degree of venality is the age arrived, that " rank, character, genius, and even probity " itſelf, are but ſecondary conſiderations;

" and it may be remarked, with truth, that " as death and the dice level all diſtinctions, " ſo money, and nothing but money, conſti- " tutes pre-eminence; purchaſe the requi- " ſites, procure but the dreſs, and you paſs " in any character, mix in all companies, " and have a juſt title to play the fool any " where, and the knave where you can. " Then honeſty is but a notion. Nothing " elſe: like wit, not to be defined; and he " that pretends to moſt has leaſt ſhare of it. " So ſaid maſter Otway, in the virtuous days " of the ſecond Charles. Quere, is honeſty " above par in 1783?" Mum.

Theſe intervening circumſtances retarded my progreſs in my propoſed turn; however, I proceeded, and ſoon reached as beautiful a landſcape as nature in its utmoſt verdure can poſſibly diſplay. I could not but call to mind that pictureſque expreſſion of the poet, that " the ripe harveſt of the new mown hay dif- " fuſed a ſweet and wholeſome odour." The ſpot from its vicinity to the town, may truly be ſtiled the *rus in urbe:* no noiſome ſtench prevails here; free is the air, unmixed with vaporous exhalations; the proſpect delights the eye, the fragrant odour gratifies the ſmell, the warbling of the feathered choir charms the ear; the expanding flower grows as it were upon the touch, and the prolific glebe affords the anticipation of a moſt delicious as well as wholeſome repaſt. " Here (ſuggeſted " nature) is room for contemplation, till the " mind burſt with thinking; we may trace

" the

" the hand of providence throughout cre-
" ation's works; all framed to ſubſerve ſome
" important purpoſe, and each as it were
" ſubſervient to the good of the whole. The
" rational, the animal, and the vegetable
" parts compoſe one ſyſtem, and as man may
" be ſaid to be a wonder to himſelf, ſo are
" all things around him; pride would aſſign
" peculiar cauſes for peculiar effects; philo-
" ſophy would aſpire to develope the arcana
" of nature; but after all the reſearches of
" which the human mind is capable, man at
" beſt is but a ſhort ſighted being, and it is
" his duty and office, in humble reflection
" and becoming ſilence, to admire and adore
" thoſe things which infinitely ſurpaſs his
" comprehenſion, and exceed the utmoſt li-
" mits of a finite underſtanding."

CHAP. II.

Reflections on Politics—Exhibition of Paintings—Character of an Ubiquarian, or Modern Man of the World.

ON return from my morning's excurſion, the breakfaſt being prepared as uſual, and the news-paper of the day placed upon the table, I ſat down according to cuſtom at

one and the ſame time, to gratify two ſenſes, which were equally impatient for their reſpective indulgence.

With us of theſe kingdoms, who in diſtinction from many others, enjoy an unlimited freedom of ſentiment and ſpeech, there is a peculiar avidity for news prevalent amongſt people of all ranks and degrees; every one, from right of private judgment, whether the peer or the cobler, aſſumes the politician, arraigns, tries, acquits, and condemns public characters, and public meaſures, and paſſes a kind of irreverſible decree, at the ſelf-inſtituted bar of his own opinion. I muſt candidly confeſs I put in my claim for the ſame privilege, and perhaps pore over a news-paper with the ſame conſcious ſelf-importance as any of my neighbours.

That charity begins at home, and that ſelf-love are innate principles, I readily admit; and yet in ſpite of what many may alledge, I think there is a ſpark of patriotiſm within my breaſt, and that I love my country for my country's ſake. Hence in our long ſtate of ſquabbles, and the warm contention between the inns and outs, I have been diſpoſed to think with the multitude, to regard the *vox populi*, as the *vox Dei*, and to congratulate my countrymen and fellow ſubjects in a late political revolution.

Enjoying theſe ideas, and promiſing to myſelf a happy train of conſequences from a moſt deſirable event, a recent inſtance announced

in

in the paper of the day ſtruck me with equal concern and aſtoniſhment; I began to debate with myſelf whether there were any ſuch properties belonging to humanity, as either patriotiſm or honeſty, and whether the loaves and fiſhes were not the objects of general purſuit.

What! diſunion between a party apparently cemented by the moſt indiſſoluble ties; whoſe words, actions, views and aims, were univerſally profeſſed to centre in their country's good, its glory, intereſt, and honour! Is the poniard of ſome aſſaſſin latently uplifted to ſtab Britannia to the heart? Is there ſome ſnake ſtill diſſeminating the bane of diviſion amongſt her councils? And muſt ſhe cruelly fall a ſacrifice at laſt to the perfidy of her own children?

While I thus reflected with myſelf, I was interrupted by my tonſor, a very honeſt fellow, though born on the other ſide the Tweed, and totally oppoſite to me in his ſyſtem of politics. Theſe gentlemen think themſelves intitled to a degree of familiarity, while they are taking one by the noſe, and being newsmongers and politicians, as it were, from the nature of their profeſſion, are very frank in giving their opinion. My friend Puff could not forbear exulting upon the occaſion, and thus addreſſed me, "What think you of maiſter "F—x, enow? By my troth he is one of old "Reynard's true bearns; he has a ſhrew'd "ken to the ſiller, he'll nae faſch himſel in

" the field of politics, unleſs he can reap a " muckle harveſt."

" Truce with your reflections, maſter Puff, (ſaid I) Rome was not built in a day; your friends and countrymen did more damage than can be repaired in a ſhort time; and as to the ſiller they have reaped a tolerable harveſt for ſome twenty years paſt." He would have replied had I not enjoined him ſilence; ſo that having finiſhed his morning's buſineſs, he left the room with an inſolent air, as if conſcious of an affront offered to his dignity, as he emphatically expreſſed it in the genuine northern dialect, though his remark ſuggeſted ſome obſervations that have frequently occurred to me when revolving in my mind the ſubject from which it aroſe.

From the very nature of our conſtitution, excellent as it is in itſelf, there has ever been, through a kind of neceſſity, an inteſtine warfare maintained between two parties, the inns and the outs, as they have long been denominated; power and intereſt ſeem to have been the leading motives of action with each; to retain being the invariable aim of the one, and to obtain the unwearied purſuit of the other. Hence this ſubject has ever engroſſed the attention of the public, employed the pens of ſome of the ableſt writers, and occaſioned feuds and animoſities between man and man in every rank and degree of life.

In the political ſyſtem there are more bubbles than in any other, nor does it admit of leſs ambiguity and duplicity, qualities peculiarly

liarly adapted to ſubſerve the purpoſes of ambition, avarice, venality and corruption. The maſk of patriotiſm has veiled many enemies to their country, the force of oratory gilded many bad cauſes, the art of duplicity diſguiſed many plain truths, and the power of gold has been productive of many more public and national ills than the united influence of the former and every other conſideration univerſally combined.

Very able moral philoſophers have aſſerted, that mankind in general are actuated by their paſſions or their intereſt, and though there may be ſome exceptions, the maxim certainly holds good upon the whole; ſo that very wiſe men have been induced to adopt that reſolution which perpetuates the memory of the Vicar of Bray.

Theſe ſcenes paſſed, I betook myſelf to my favourite amuſement, at a time of the day when the world at large may be ſaid to be abroad, and afford diverſity of matter for ſpeculation, and the exerciſe of a ſentimental, moralizing genius. Though the ſummer ſeaſon was advanced, the grand aſſembly of the nation continued to ſit, maſquerades and every ſpecies of public entertainment were announced amidſt a general complaint of the weight of taxes and the decline of trade; luxury and diſſipation prevailed univerſally throughout every part of the town, which, added to the violence of party, ſeemed to have intoxicated mankind, and borne all down before them, in defiance of every conſideration, human or divine;

divine: in a word, the preſent æra might juſtly be ſtiled, "The reign of the paſſions." Report, conjecture, and opinion, engroſſed converſation; each ſucceeding day was looked upon as big with the fate of nations, and every individual almoſt appeared ſo abſorbed in the affairs of the public, as wholly to neglect his own, in conſequence of which bankruptcies encreaſed and many families were involved in irretrievable ruin.

Having a great paſſion for the delightful art of painting, and being a kind of dabbler myſelf, I found by a bill delivered me, as I paſſed through the Strand, that it was the annual ſeaſon of the artiſts exhibition of their ſeveral productions, and accordingly entered the place ſet apart for the ſame, promiſing myſelf the higheſt entertainment; nor were my expectations diſappointed, for ſuch was the diſplay of this noble art upon the occaſion, that it redounded greatly to the honour of our countrymen, as well as evinced, that it is arrived to a degree of perfection in Britain equal to what the moſt celebrated foreign maſters can poſſibly boaſt.

Here I met with a perſon of exquiſite taſte and judgment, who not only commented with great ſkill and propriety upon the different pieces, but very ſenſibly remarked, that annexing rewards, whether honorary or pecuniary to thoſe productions, according to the acknowledged ſtandard of their reſpective merit, not only did us credit as a nation, but had a tendency to raiſe the art to that degree of

eminence,

eminence, we can now boaſt amongſt ourſelves. If the ſame rule was obſerved (he added) with reſpect to the arts and ſciences in general, there is not a doubt but it would be productive of the ſame beneficial and glorious effects, in bringing to perfection whatever can adorn human nature; ſtimulating our countrymen to the exertion of their talents, and raiſing our nation to the higheſt pinnacle of glory and renown.

The ſubjects were pleaſingly variegated, and many of them executed in a moſt maſterly and pictureſque manner. Among them were divers exhalted characters, ſuch as patriots, heroes, poets, philoſophers, divines, and others, whoſe public conduct reflected honour on themſelves and glory on their country.

To tranſmit their names to lateſt poſterity, the naval and military operations of divers brave and renowned commanders, were diſplayed in the moſt ſtriking colours, and embelliſhed with every device of taſte and fancy. To add a luſtre to the whole, nature was beautifully diſplayed in a variety of landſcapes, exhibiting its progreſs throughout the various ſeaſons, each of which was moſt emblematically depicted, and the whole in this branch combined to pleaſe and inſtruct the beholder.

But as it is the province of the art to hold vice and folly up to public view, as well as goodneſs and virtue; there were not wanting upon the occaſion pieces poignantly ſatiric,

highly

highly ridiculous, or drolly humorous. The debauchee throughout the different ſtages of life was characteriſtically repreſented in all the diſplay of a meagre emaciated carcaſe, debilitated frame, and every ſymptom attendant on a life of luxury and diſſipation. The wily luring harlot was ſtrikingly coloured, and the bawd ſo marked, as to excite at once contempt and indignation. The drunkard appeared as wallowing in beſtiality, and the ſordid miſer had all hell in his countenance, excited by anxious dread of loſing his adorer, pelf. Hope and fear ſat interwoven on the brow of the gameſter, and deſpondency glared with its every horror in the face of a youth abandoned to miſery, and determined upon his own execution. Conſcious guilt, and penitential ſorrow, adorned the viſage of another devoted to death by the laws of his country, whilſt the adjoining portraits marked every degree of obduracy and inſenſibility.

As the ſtage is peculiarly adapted to characteriſtic diſplay, exhibiting virtue and vice in the moſt ſtriking points of view, ſeveral eminent performers were admirably pourtrayed in their favourite parts; inſomuch that the actor lived as it were upon the canvas, which produced all the effect of public repreſentation. In a word, the whole compriſed an epitome of nature in general, and afforded ample ſcope for that ſtudy, which is the peculiar privilege as well as dignity of reaſonable beings; I mean the ſtudy of men and things.

If the variety of the exhibition afforded me the higheſt pleaſure, I derived no leſs entertainment from the variety of characters that compoſed the company of ſpectators, the far greater part of whom being known to the perſon who had previouſly commented on the pieces, I took the liberty of referring to him for particulars, and found him extremely affable and communicative.

The firſt character pointed out was a lady, apparently of eaſy acceſs, though dreſſed in the very peak of the mode, ſurveying moſt intently a finiſhed painting of Lucreſia, that celebrated mirror of chaſtity; I was given to underſtand that ſhe had lately been honoured in admittance to the moſt intimate connection with a prince, but was now the pleaſurable companion of a certain peer, by whom ſhe was amply furniſhed with all that can contribute to luxury and ſplendour. She viewed the picture with complacency and admiration, and not without a conſcious bluſh; ſo commanding is the power of virtue, as to ſtrike with reverential awe, the votaries of vice, who ſhrink abaſhed from its preſence, and lament their fall from its ſalutary precepts.

" Obſerve, ſaid my inſtructor, that demure ſtarched lady looking through her glaſs at the very ſame picture. You would imagine that ſhe bears the reſemblance of what ſhe affects to admire; but there is much reaſon to ſuſpect the contrary, and that her errand here is not to ſurvey the exhibition, but to attend an aſſignation with that ſtout young fellow

in

in the corner, who is viewing the character of the penitential convict. She has palmed that pretence on an old debilitated cuckold at home; and ſee the gallant beckons her, and ſhe trips on to obey the ſummons, ſo that I fancy ſhe has little of Lucreſia in her compoſition, but is rather allied to a frail mortal known in the records of ancient Rome by the name of Meſſalina. All places of public reſort are favourable to galliantry and intrigue, from which the moſt ſolemn as well as the moſt airy cannot therefore be poſſibly exempt."

My notice could not but be attracted by a moſt ſingular figure, correſponding exactly in every particular of garb and appearance with the picture he ſeemed as it were to look through, with the aſſiſtance of his barnacles. If he had ſat for a likeneſs every day for the ſpace of a month, the painter could not have pourtrayed a more ſtriking reſemblance. Such a compact figure of the preciſeſt formality perhaps never preſented itſelf before to private or public view. This was old Gripus laughing at himſelf, a ſatire upon ſatire, and the moſt pointed, ſevere, and ridiculous, that can be exhibited; by being like nobody, the piece of antiquity became an object of notice to every body; he was habited according to the faſhion of the laſt century, avarice and penury were inſcribed on his face, and the miſer appeared in every lineament of his features.

To add to the deteſtation of his character, I found that he was a moſt extortionate uſurer,

a wretch

a wretch who preyed on the very vitals of mankind, lived upon the diſtreſſed, and enriched himſelf through the indigence of his fellow-creatures. He was probably in waiting for ſome poor unfortunate artiſt, or other man of genius, who, through neceſſity or indiſcretion, had applied to this rapacious old ſcoundrel for a ſum to anſwer an indiſpenſable demand.

But turn, ſaid my inſtructor, from that antiquated lump of iniquity, to that Adonis, who amidſt ſuch a variety of enchanting objects, is admiring his own ſweet perſon in his pocket mirror, as if deſirous, if poſſible, of finding amongſt the numerous groupe around the ſpot, the reſemblance of his adorable picture. His name is famous, or rather infamous for divers particulars, in which he is remarkably ſingular from the reſt of mankind, though to define his ſex is a taſk of very intricate difficulty; he is by birth an Italian, by manufacture a caſtrato, by profeſſion an operatical performer, and by poſſeſſion nothing at all. Notwithſtanding his inſignificance and deficiency in what is eſſential to conſtitute the man, by means of his vocal powers and other qualities, he cuts the ſplendid figure in which he now appears; nay, ſuch is the depravity of the reigning taſte, that he is admitted into the graces of ſeveral women of the firſt faſhion, of which he does not ſcruple to boaſt whenever his manhood is called into queſtion. You will doubtleſs be ſurpriſed when I inform you,

that theſe exotics are imported here in ſhoals, encouraged at an immenſe expence, and command ſalaries ſuperior to the whole revenue of many of the petty potentates in their own country. This information excited my wonder and reſentment, as a ſingular inſtance of the glaring folly of our nation in laviſhing their bounty upon foreigners, whilſt numbers of the natives, poſſeſſed of learning and genius, are pining in all the miſeries of the extremeſt poverty.

That young fellow, continued my inſtructor, who is ogling every female that comes into the room, ſeems induced by a deſire of beholding an exhibition of living beauties, rather than thoſe charms that are diſplayed by the pencil of the artiſt. I had the pleaſure of being known to his father, a moſt reſpectable perſon of very conſiderable property, in the county where I was born and educated; my old acquaintance being lately deceaſed, this thoughtleſs giddy youth is juſt come to the poſſeſſion of the eſtate, which he bids fair to diſſipate in much leſs time, but with much more eaſe than it was acquired; though he was ſome years at college, I fear he came away juſt as wiſe as he went there, and though he entered as a ſtudent in one of the inns of court ſeveral terms paſt, it is probable that at the expiration of his time, he will be more expert in the laws of gallantry than the laws of the land, and better qualified for a buck than a barriſter. The inns of court are founded on very liberal and laudable

ble principles, and have ſtill the honour of producing ſeveral characters that do themſelves and the profeſſion the greateſt credit; but there are many gents, whom fortune (niggard in every other endowment) has made ſo, that chuſe thoſe places of reſidence from motives of convenience, and contribute to render them the ſeats of debauchery and riot, rather than of ſtudy and contemplation.

During this obſervation I fixed my eye upon a ſmart pragmatical ſpark, who affected to turn up his noſe and take the ſnuff of contempt, at almoſt every piece throughout the whole exhibition: I heard a perſon of apparent diſcernment near me, cenſure him as one of thoſe pſeudo critics, who are a ſcandal to literature, and a diſgrace to the liberal arts, in affecting knowledge in things of which they are totally ignorant, and preſuming to paſs judgment on productions, without underſtanding one of the principles upon which they are founded; he is as fond of poring over the criticiſms that appear upon this occaſion, on the merits and demerits of the reſpective artiſts, who ſubmit their works to public inſpection, as he is of the lucubrations of the Reviewers, who paſs their judgment upon every new attempt that appears monthly upon the circle of letters; it was added, that upon examination he would be found to underſtand juſt as much of painting as of literature; though he was execrating artiſts and authors indiſcriminately, as if

rigour and ſeverity, and not candour and liberality, were proofs of real genius and genuine taſte. It would redound to the credit of ſuch upſtarts, previouſly to apply to thoſe ſtudies which are requiſite to qualify them, for the forminga right judgment on the ſubjects of the nature alluded to, as well as preclude their being warped in opinion by the premature or illiberal criticiſms of others, which obſtruct the progreſs of learning and ſcience in general. This cloſed our ſpeculations on the ſubjects and characters which had preſented themſelves during the time I ſpent, with much inſtruction and entertainment, at this place of public reſort; ſo that having thanked the generous ſtranger for his polite and very liberal behaviour, I took my departure, in order to diverſify the ſcene, and proceed in queſt of further objects of amuſement.

A conſiderable time having elapſed ſince I had taken any refreſhment, and being accuſtomed to my diſh of chocolate and ruſk before dinner, I ſtepped into a certain houſe, nearly oppoſite to the ſtrange edifice, dedicated to holy Dunſtan, and famous for the two figures which ſtrike the quarters, and attract the curioſity of numerous gazers, continually paſſing and repaſſing that much frequented ſpot of this motley world.

I had no ſooner taken my ſeat, than I was accoſted by a jolly man, who, with a look of buſineſs and importance, aſked me what I thought of the reſignation of ſeveral great

men,

men, who had made a part of the new adminiſtration? I laconically replied, I thought it an inſtance amongſt numberleſs others, of that frailty and fallibility which are inſeparable from our preſent ſtate of mortality; upon this, I heard him whiſper to a little dapper fellow at his elbow, "a peery old blade, but I'll queer him for all this, I caught his eye juſt now, and I know he'll ſtand two bob." Accordingly he thus proceeded, "Good Sir, I find by the readineſs and ſhrewdneſs of your reply to the queſtion I took the liberty to propoſe, that you are a gentleman of underſtanding and experience, that you have read mankind, and are not to be impoſed on by ſpecious pretences, and plauſible ſpeeches."

While he was plying me with a recipe that ſeldom fails of ſucceſs, I obſerved him fumbling in his ſide pocket, and at length out came a large claſped book, which, on its being opened, appeared to contain a great quantity of papers, printed and manuſcript; from amongſt the reſt, he ſelected one in particular, and laying it on the table, acquainted me, that from an aſſurance that I was a friend to the muſes, he preſented me a propoſal for an intended publication, and humbly entreated the honour of my name being added to a very numerous liſt of ſubſcribers, who had already favoured him with theirs.

The hook was well baited, and in this inſtance, the old remark of our Warwickſhire bard, "that a little flattery ſometimes

does well," was verified; for not being leſs ſuſceptible of it than the reſt of my brethren, I took up the pen immediately, ſigned, and depoſited the two ſhillings, as the moiety of the ſubſcription according to the propoſals; the author returned me thanks with a moſt formal preciſion, and beckoning to his little friend, bowed very ſubmiſſively, and left the room.

The peculiarity of his manner excited my curioſity to enquire into his character, connections and way of life; I therefore aſked the landlord if he knew the gentleman that juſt went out; "Know him," replied the hoſt, "Ay Sir, I know him well enough, he's one of the moſt ſenſibleſt, generouſeſt, affabbleſt men in the world; you would be ſurprized to think what a deal of money he ſpends, why he'd raiſe money out of the ſtones in the ſtreet." "Indeed," ſaid I, "that is ſurpriſing, but what is the method he generally purſues?" "Why, Sir, (anſwered the credulous fool of a landlord, of whoſe ſenſe I had formed a judgment from his former reply), he talks people out of their money; I have heard him talk for two or three hours together, and tell ſuch ſtories as would make your hair ſtand an end, and others that would make you burſt your ſides with laughter."

I had, in ſome meaſure, anticipated the character of this extraordinary genius from the late ſpecimen of his behaviour, but was confirmed in the ſame by the very particular

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information of a grave looking perſon, who on the landlord's being called to attend upon a company above ſtairs, thus proceeded: "The hiſtory of that man's life, Sir, affords as pictureſque a diſplay of the vices, follies, and foibles of human nature, as can poſſibly be exhibited; he has aſſumed as many different forms, ways, means and profeſſions, as fabuliſts tell us of Proteus; he has viſited moſt countries, kept all companies, paſt through a diverſity of ſcenes at home and abroad, and may with the greateſt propriety be ſtiled, a man of the world. Yet the method he preſumes to obtain a ſubſiſtence are the ſevereſt ſatires upon mankind, as in general he paſſes himſelf upon the world, for what he is conſcious within his own breaſt he is not, nor can be; he has acted in a naval, military, mercantile, theatrical, and literary capacity, without one ſingle requiſite for either; nay, he has occaſionally been the landlord, pander, bully and ſycophant; to crown the whole, he has had the addreſs, throughout a very conſiderable tour, to impoſe himſelf upon reſpectable audiences, as a finiſhed ſcholar, and an accompliſhed orator.

"By poſſeſſing a tolerable memory, he has furniſhed himſelf with a repoſitory of detached pieces from divers authors, in verſe and proſe, a variety of ſongs, ſentimental and convivial, a collection of bons mots, conundrums, repartees, anecdotes, tales, and ſtories, which he occaſionally produces, as may be beſt adapted to his company, and conſequently

ſequently moſt ſubſervient to his own intereſt; as he acquires money with eaſe, in general he expends it with profuſion; ſo that having obtained the name of a generous, hearty good fellow, it becomes a never-failing paſſport to various ſocieties, amongſt whom he levies contributions, and thus lives, in the trueſt ſenſe of the phraſe, upon the public at large.

"But notwithſtanding the palpable deceptions he practiſes upon others, there is not a greater dupe to the arts of knaves and ſycophants than himſelf; he is as eaſily impoſed upon as he impoſes upon others; and thus what is proſtituted by fools upon him, he as a fool, proſtitutes upon knaves; in one continued round of profuſion, riot, and debauchery, he has paſſed many years, but to every thinking diſcerning mind, it muſt be matter of wonder that ſuch frauds are not detected and exploded, and that all who dare attempt the practice of them, are not diſcarded as the peſts of ſociety."

The narrative afforded me ſome entertainment, but much more inſtruction in the important leſſon of life, as I never met with a ſimilar character in the whole courſe of my reading, travels, and obſervations, ſo that I went from this place abundantly wiſer than I came, for never before did I meet with ſo exact a picture of what may be called an ubiquarian.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

An Ordinary, Fare, and Company diſſected—Tea Garden Scenes, ſerious and comic.

BY this time it approached the hour of three, at which I had an appointment to dine with an old friend, at a well known ſpot, within the purlieus of Charing Croſs, where there is an excellent ordinary frequented by as motley a company as can poſſibly be met with throughout the whole compaſs of the bills of mortality; to expedite my paſſage, and ſave my diſtance, I called a leathern convenience, and was rapidly conveyed to the deſtined goal, juſt in time to ſecure a chain and a plate, for they obſerve upon theſe occaſions the cuſtomary rule of a barber's ſhop, "firſt come, firſt ſerved."

The company in general having taken their ſeats, indicated a longing expectation of the introduction of the ſolids, and a prompt diſpoſition to the exerciſe of the knife and fork. Looking around me, I eſpied my friend in a corner, and through means of a polite interceſſion, was permitted to take my ſeat next to him, which was agreeable to me as a ſtranger, and particularly as it afforded me

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an opportunity of gratifying my favourite propenſity of obtaining intelligence, and drawing reflections from the characters and converſations that ſurrounded us, which were equally motley, equally various.

At length two tureens were brought in and placed by the attendants at each end of the table; I thought the introduction of ſoups in warm weather rather extraordinary, but afterwards obſerving ſeveral foreigners amongſt us, I was reconciled to the cuſtom, though I had no inclination to participate. The reſt of the fare was ſeaſonable, good of the kind, well dreſſed, and decently ſerved up, except ſome fiſh, which was rather too high ſeaſoned for my palate, though it was ſwallowed by ſome of the foreigners with the greateſt guſt and avidity; indeed the ſeaſoning ſeemed to have been applied to counteract a very prevailing flavour it had contracted from being preſerved too long.

In all theſe promiſcuous repaſts, notwithſtanding their occaſional convenience, I have obſerved a number of circumſtances that ever give me the utmoſt diſguſt; I was never preſent at one of them, where there was not ſome cormorant or glutton, deſirous of engroſſing whatever was moſt rare and delicate. As an inſtance of this, I could not but remark a ſtrapping brawny North Briton, who it ſeems always took care to come time enough to ſecure a place at the head of the table, ſeize upon two or three different things at one and the ſame time; an Iriſhman, who

eyed

eyed him with juſt reſentment, watched an opportunity of retorting ſo palpable an affront offered to the company in general, and as he was handling into his own plate at leaſt one third of a diſh of aſparagus, ſerved up for the whole, rapped him with his knife upon the knuckles, with this ſarcaſtic reproof, "Sir, there are gentlemen at table." Conſcious as it were of a flagrant breach of good manners, the offender pocketed the affront for the preſent, telling the perſon who had ſo properly chaſtiſed him, "that he would talk to him another time."

This check raiſed a bluſh in the countenance of one of the foreigners, who I was given to underſtand, had been guilty of ſimilar behaviour, though his age had rather protected him from a ſimilar inſtance of reſentment. My friend very politely remarked upon the laſt circumſtance, that though young perſons of rank and fortune are tranſported to the continent to finiſh their education, and learn the punctilio of good breeding, he never obſerved them more trangreſſed than by thoſe who are imported here from the continent; to this I bore ample teſtimony from experience I had derived, in having the misfortune of ſitting down occaſionally at table with ſome of theſe exotics, at a very reſpectable houſe near Golden Square, and I can aver I never ſaw ſuch guttling, bolting, and ſcrambling amongſt Engliſh porters, as is daily practiſed by thoſe who bear at leaſt the appearance of gentlemen.

Our

Our regale being finiſhed, and the cloth drawn, the company ſeemed to form themſelves into ſelect parties, in order to adapt their liquor as well as talk, to their ſeveral inclinations and diſpoſitions; this was a reſolution extremely agreeable to my friend, and more ſo to myſelf, as it furniſhed us an opportunity of enjoying each others converſation uninterrupted, as well as of commenting on the various characters around us, with ſome of which he was intimately acquainted. The firſt he pointed out was a ſpark, who immediately on the attendant's producing pipes and tobacco, called his reckoning and quitted the room, from a profeſſed averſion to the ſmell of the fumes of the weed, which not only offended his delicacy, but would leave on his clothes a nauſeous ſcent, highly diſagreeable to thoſe polite aſſemblies which Mr. Jeſſamy frequented.

That compound of folly and affectation, (ſaid my friend) is the ſon of a Swiſs dancing-maſter, whoſe extenſive buſineſs enables him to ſupport the parade of an outſide appearance, though he inhabits theſe purlieus for reaſons of convenience, nor can advance beyond their limits without endangering the liberty of his perſon; he might have obviated theſe difficulties as aſſiſtant to his father, but ſetting no bounds to his extravagance, pride, and vanity, and being addicted to the faſhionable vice of gaming, his income was by no means adequate to his expences, ſo that having renounced the kit, he commenced

gentleman

gentleman at large, and lived as ſuch, till his hard hearted creditors, threatening him with a tap on the ſhoulder, he betook himſelf to this temporary aſylum.

But the quality that renders him deteſtable to all, who have a ſpark of honour remaining, is an affectation of obtaining univerſal conqueſt over the ladies, who, as he pretends, fall victims to his all-powerful attractions, inſomuch that he would perſuade the world to believe he commands the affection of every woman who admits him to the leaſt degree of familiarity, and from thence infers an obvious conſequence. The ſedeſpicable wretches ſhould be tried by a jury of females, and ſubjected to ſuch penalties as they may be ſuppoſed with juſtice to inflict.

That little blade in the formal bag wig, who is pointing his finger at different times to every quarter of the room, to diſplay the ſhining bauble that adorns it (continued my friend) may be denominated, the prince of quacks, or empiric general; as his genius, according to himſelf, extends to numberleſs branches in the various departments of phyſic, ſurgery, and mathematics. He is by profeſſion, a phyſician, dentiſt, dancing maſter and mechanic; he has reſtored life to hundreds, ſupplied the loſs of complete ſets of teeth; he exceeds Veſtris in the ſcience of dancing, and challenges the great man in Piccadilly in the production of wonders. His advertiſements are ſpecimens of his literary abilities, and contain ſuch inexplicable

jargon as would puzzle the wiſeſt man of the age to develope; yet ſuch are the folly and credulity of the inhabitants of this metropolis, though they arrogate to themſelves ſuperior knowledge to the whole world, that empirics in every line obtain very competent livelihoods, and many amaſs conſiderable fortunes.

While my friend was deſcanting on theſe characters, my attention was diverted by a perſon who ſat oppoſite, and was continually venting vollies of oaths, uttering prophane and obſcene jeſts, and burſting into immoderate fits of laughter. As I ever conceived an averſion to theſe deſpicable practices, I craved indulgence, and took upon me to paſs the following remarks:

" Never did vice in general bear greater ſway; to be ſingularly virtuous, and refuſe to conform to the faſhionable enormities of the day, incurs the appellation of cynic, and the ridicule of wits and choice ſpirits. Nothing tends more to a general depravity of manners, than an habitual practice of prophane ſwearing, and burleſquing ſubjects, ſerious and ſacred. The libertine pleads, that to bring out an oath, or crack a jeſt over the bottle, is harmleſs, and may be diſpenſed with; characters reputedly grave do the ſame, and ſurely young fellows may claim the like indulgence.

" But does prophanation in any degree ſharpen wit, or add force to a repartee? Are burleſques paſſed on matters ſerious and ſacred, arguments of reaſon and underſtanding? Certainly no; they are the greateſt proofs of

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the want of all, and miſerable expletives for a deficiency in every acquirement, that can render us valuable as men and members of ſociety.

" Such indeed is the pernicious influence of evil habit, that perſons addicted to theſe practices, are rendered by cuſtom inſenſible both as to the enormity and commiſſion of them. Yet, abandoned as they are, they muſt have their intervals of remorſe; here they cannot remain long, nor can they diveſt themſelves of the idea of the probability at leaſt of an hereafter; the bare admiſſion of which carries with it a moſt poignant ſting."

Theſe moral reflections were attended to and approved; but a converſation now aroſe between an Engliſhman and a Frenchman, that excited the notice of the company at large. The points for which they contended were equally abſurd and ridiculous, though they amounted to one and the ſame thing, which was the excluſive claim of each of their reſpective countries to ſuperiority over all others, in arts, arms, and every particular that conſtitutes national merit. They deſcended to the loweſt reflections and moſt ſcurrilous terms, till ſeveral perſons interpoſing, and calling to order, monſieur vented his ſpleen in four monoſyllables; " You be one brute;" to which our blunt countryman rejoined in three, " You be damn'd," accompanied with a look admirably adapted to the reply.

I remember an inſtance of the prevalence

of this abſurd partiality, in a perſon of extenſive learning and in general of a liberal diſpoſition. A friend put into his hand Daniel De Foe's True Born Engliſhman; he opened it and began to read to the other; who could not but obſerve the ſatisfaction pictured in his countenance, whilſt dwelling on thoſe paſſages which deſcanted on the excellencies of his countrymen; but when he came by degrees to thoſe wherein that humorous ſatirical writer turns the tables and oppoſes their foibles to their merits; "No, no," (he exclaimed) "that's too much, you are out there, Mr. Daniel;" and at length, meeting with a clauſe, that exhibits the reverential regard John Engliſh pays to his belly, he abruptly cloſed the book, and ſlipped it into his pocket, exclaiming, in a ſurly tone, "I'll finiſh it another time."

From this obſervation I inferred the folly of national as well as perſonal prejudice, and the neceſſity of ſtudying the volume of human nature, and judging of men and things abſtracted from their immediate relations, connections and intereſts. A meer Engliſhman, a meer Frenchman, or a meer any thing, conſidered as ſuch, is a meer thing indeed; our knowledge ſhould therefore be extended beyond the place or nation which gives us birth; if not by travelling, by reading, which may be accompliſhed at a moderate expence, and in a moderate portion of time; as we have many excellent productions that may be purchaſed either in the groſs or in part; nor

is any thing ſo diſgraceful as a perſon of genteel appearance, whoſe ignorance proclaims itſelf in all companies with whom he aſſociates. By this time the evening came on, and my friend made a motion to walk over the bridge and amuſe ourſelves with a diſh of tea, and a ſurvey of the company which daily flock to a place of eminent reſort, well known to the gay world; I nodded aſſent, and on we jogged.

We could not but behold with pleaſure that compact ſtructure erected at the Surry ſide of the bridge, for the reception, maintenance, and education of deſerted females, whoſe parochial ſettlements cannot be aſcertained. This amongſt other charitable inſtitutions in and about the metropolis, reflects honour upon human nature in general, and our country in particular; to reſcue our infant females from thoſe temptations, and that irretrievable ruin to which, from the very nature of their ſex, they are peculiarly liable, is the higheſt degree of wiſdom as well as charity, and tends to promote the cauſe of piety and virtue in the moſt extenſive and eſſential points.

But if we behold the outſide with pleaſure, the view that preſented itſelf on our entrance afforded the higheſt delight and ſatisfaction; the ruddy countenances, neat and decent attire, and wholeſome food, of theſe once abandoned outcaſts of fortune, together with the uſeful labours in which they were employed according to their reſpective ages and ſtrength,

were infallible proofs of the prudence and humanity of the governors of this excellent charity, and the integrity and care of thoſe to whoſe guidance and ſuperintendance the children were immediately committed. When we reflect on the miſeries of want and wretchedneſs, the prevalence of evil example, the loſs of virtue, with that train of dire conſequences, which are their almoſt certain reſult; what bleſſings do not flow from, what curſes are not averted by theſe god-like interpoſitions, of the generous and humane? Suffice it to add, that as virtue in general is its own reward, ſo benevolence amply repays itſelf in taſting the conſcious joys of doing good.

Theſe and other remarks of the like kind filled up our time very agreeably till we arrived at the bread and butter manufactory, which diſplayed a diverſity of ſcenes that might ſerve both for ſerious and humorous reflections and obſervations. The company was rather of the gay and airy ſort, whoſe main deſign ſeemed to be that of ſeeing and being ſeen; but looking about us, we found aſſignation to be the grand buſineſs of both ſexes which frequented this circle of levity; indeed decency and good ſenſe ſeemed to give way to froth and nonſenſe, nor was there any thing to pleaſe a rational or moral ſpectator.

Take notice (ſaid my friend) of that ſpark, equipped in the peak of the mode, ſeated between two luring proſtitutes, who ſeem to vie with each other for tokens of his

favourable

ſavourable regard. He is the ſon of an honeſt tin-man in the city, who, by ſuffering this brainleſs boy to indulge that moſt deſpicable kind of pride, the imitation of ſuperiors, will probably entail ruin on himſelf and the whole family. You behold how aukwardly ſtiff he appears; notwithſtanding his gay habiliments, his affectation and vanity muſt be apparent to every diſcerning ſpectator; and his attempting to paſs for a gentleman, though diveſted of eaſe and elegance of deportment, muſt ſubject him to the ridicule and contempt of all who can diſtinguiſh character.

There cannot be a greater inſtance of folly, than a deſire of appearing in diſguiſe, and aſſuming a part in the drama of life we are not qualified to ſuſtain with propriety; it ariſes indeed, and is encouraged in a great meaſure by the unthinking part of the world's judging according to the old proverb, "Fine feathers make fine birds;" and perſons are generally reſpected, where they are not perſonally known, according to their exterior appearance; from a redundance of ſuperfluous ornaments ſhallow judges eſtimate property; as little wits do underſtanding from a multiplicity of words; hence frequently, if there is any ſuperficial knowledge of the world acquired by obſervation, and a conſciouſneſs of little or no intrinſic merit, an appearance above rank and circumſtance is aſſumed, eſpecially in large and populous places, where obſcure characters may paſs from ſpot to ſpot a long time unknown, and excite the eſteem

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of the million, not for what they are, but what they ſeem to be. This is certainly a great incentive to vanity, and founded on Maſkwell's quotation; *Qui vult decipi, decipiatur.*

As we were paſſing theſe remarks on a very trivial and common ſubject, the company were alarmed by moſt horrid ſhrieks that iſſued from the fartheſt part of the room; it appeared upon enquiry that a lady had been ſeized with a moſt violent fit, occaſioned by a ſuſpicion that her paramour entertained a ſneaking kindneſs for another demirep, whom it ſeemed he had been ogling from a bench at a conſiderable diſtance. Curioſity excited us to be ſpectators of this extraordinary ſcene, ſo that we ſhifted our quarters to a part of this enchanting circle where we could have a more convenient view. After the application of the hartſhorn bottle, and rubbing the temples a conſiderable time, the entranced female gave ſome ſigns of recovery; till raiſing her head by degrees, ſhe at length could juſt be heard to utter, "O, Villain! Villain! Villain! I'il murder that curſed ſtrumpet."

In the ſpace of about twenty minutes, every ſymptom of the late prevailing diſorder vaniſhed; and never did viſage appear in more terrible form; though deſirable in point of perſon upon the whole, her diſpoſition was ſtrongly characterered in her countenance; indeed ſhe ſoon gave the moſt ample and convincing proofs that ſhe was all that ſhe looked;

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the poor paramour felt not meerly the effects of her tongue, with which ſhe aſperſed him in all the delicate phraſeology of Billingſgate; but alſo of her clinched fiſt, with which ſhe belaboured his viſage to ſuch a degree, that he muſt certainly have retained marks and tokens of her ſingular favour and regard a conſiderable time; for ſhe did not ſcruple to declare that the whole ſcene proceeded from her love for the dog.

Strange love (thought I) that can impel to ſuch extraordinary behaviour. But above all things, I could not reconcile myſelf to the diſtant idea of a female's entertaining jealouſy of an individual, when publicly known to admit the ſex promiſcuouſly to her embraces for fee, hire, and reward. My friend expreſſed ſome degree of ſurprize as well as myſelf, till we were informed by a bye-ſtander, that nothing was more common amongſt thoſe ladies, who in general had their favorites or dependants; wretches that ſordidly deſcend to live on the wages of proſtitution, and be a kind of appendage in a train of the moſt infamous purſuits. As theſe fellows live by them, they think it a duty incumbent on them to be devoted to their ſervices alone, and deem every deviation ungenerous and ungrateful.

In a ſnug corner of the garden, we eſpied an antiquated Levite toying with a young thing that ſat upon his knee, and chuckled him with all the careſſes of the fondeſt dalliance; never did human frailty appear in a more ſtriking

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light. What a contemptible figure do we make when deſire ſurvives ability, and we have recourſe to the moſt flagitious means of exciting paſſions by nature dormant; as if we ſtrove to perplex ourſelves, by picturing objects to a depraved fancy, which we cannot poſſibly enjoy beyond idea; but there are many of this caſt, and they ever prove moſt beneficial to the luring harlot that can enſnare them, and bear with their nauſeating peculiarities. Perfectly cloyed with the ſcenes which preſented themſelves in this ſpot of vanity, we took our departure for the metropolis, aſſured that we ſhould there find freſh matter for ſpeculative diſquiſition.

CHAP. IV.

Strictures, Remarks and Reflections, enpaſſant.—Choice Catalogue of Books,—Amphitheatrical Riding Houſe, &c.—Lyceum, or modern Oratorical Academy.

NOvelty never ceaſes, (ſaid my friend as we paſſed) in this world of wonders; there are ſpirits at work every moment, in deviſing ſchemes and projects to weedle the money out of the pockets of the public. The greateſt performance that ever was on

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ever will, or ever can be, is announced almoſt weekly; and we have prodigies of exotic origin imported every day. The faculty of ſeeing has no where more ample ſcope for indulgence than here, as there are hours ſuited to all ages and diſpoſitions, from the child of four, to the child of fourſcore; and thoſe who cannot ſee with the naked eye, may be accommodated with excellent mirrors adapted to their reſpected diſtances, in point of view.

A propos (I rejoined) what, if we ſuggeſt the idea of *The Dog and Duck*; a poem humorous and ſatirical, to Sam Stanza, the little dapper Bard? I think he'll jump at the hint; it may ſupply him with a few pieces to change his feathers, for poor Sam ſtands in great need of moulting; ſo that our late adventure may conduce to the intereſt of our friend if not of ourſelves. It was agreed, and a reſolution formed, of communicating the plan the firſt time we met Sam over a pot of Calvert's entire. The very mention gave as it were a whet to deſire, the weather being warm, and the roads duſty, ſo we popped into a houſe of civil reception, and called for a tankard of the beſt. While we were thus regaling ourſelves my friend took out of his pocket a catalogue of choice books for ſale by auction; and which, for their ſingularity, both as to titles and ſubjects, he deſired to read, and thus proceeded:

A Catalogue, &c. &c. *Learning and Humanity*, great Strangers: a farce.—*Cuckoldom*

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Myſtery, a novel, by a well known *baronet*—*Policy and Intereſt* in Conjunction, a poem, addreſs'd to all ſtateſmen, by Luke Laſhem--The *Graſhoppers*: a ſatire againſt dancing; written by a juſtice of the quorum, whoſe daughter had been ſtolen from a boarding ſchool—An eſſay on the Diſſection of an Idiot's head, addreſſed to the Royal Society—*The Whirligig, a burleſque*, by the Man in the Moon—An *Elegy* on the Death of the Nine Muſes, by *Robin Rhyme*—*The Fire Ship*, a ſatire on lewd women; by a young gentleman under the hands of the doctor—*Don Quixote* Improved, or *Romance* upon *Romance*, by *Frank Fiction*. —A Panegeric on a Sunday Pudding and a Cup of October; by a Yorkſhire curate—*Once a Biſhop uo more a Prieſt*, by a diſappointed Gownſman—*A Knock in the Cradle*, or an excellent Method of quieting Noiſy Children; by a Step Mother—Hope in a *Hopſack*, or dependance on Promiſes—*Labor in Vain*, dedicated to courtiers in general—*The Diſſection of a Lawyer*, with remarks on the whiteneſs of his liver, occaſioned by ſome actions of treſpaſs brought againſt him—*A Pindaric Ode* on the Death of a Lap Dog, addreſſed to a lady who had lately buried her ſquirrel at Bath—*The Mathematical Mouſe-trap*, an eſſay, ſhewing that it was impoſſible for the mouſe to get either in or out, by a ſtudent of Cambridge—*The Birchen Tyrants*, a poem, dedicated to the moſt eminent ſchoolmaſters in and about London. —*The Military Buffoons*, a burleſque poem, in three parts, by Sampſon Spontoon—*The Art*

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of Living on one Meal a Day, written by a miſer for the uſe of his family. *Honeſty the beſt Policy*, a paradox, written by a gentleman of the turf. *Forma Pauperis*, a ſatire, dedicated to the lawyers, tenth edition. *O Tempora! O Mores!* an eſſay on the times; by a city bard. *Ita eſt*, and who can help it? a poem written by every body. *Qui capit, ille facit*, a ſatire, written by *Nobody*, &c. &c. &c.

I derived, I muſt confeſs, much entertainment from this whimſical catalogue, which exhibited a great deal of genuine humour, and ſome poignant and well applied ſtrokes of ſatire. There is frequently more efficacy in this mode of expoſing the vices and follies of mankind, than in the moſt elaborate treatiſes, or beſt compoſed ſermons; as it holds up a kind of mirror, in which perſons cannot but ſee their own pictures diſplayed as it were to the life.

Theſe and other remarks paſſed away the time, till we approached a celebrated ſchool for jockies, called, by way of diſtinction, the Amphitheatrical Riding Houſe, the proprietor of which has obtained an ample fortune, through a degree of popularity acquired by the introduction of novelty and variety for the entertainment of the public. This kind of riding, and the feats which the equeſtrian heroes occaſionally exhibit, are ſtrong and convincing proofs of the docility and tractability of the animals, and the art and dauntleſs reſolution of the men; by

which the moſt apparent difficulties may be ſurmounted, and ſeeming wonders are effected with eaſe. Indeed we live in an age of wonders, and few exhibitions will now go down, unleſs they have the ſanction of the marvellous to recommend them. This has a moſt wonderful effect, and is the loadſtone that draws ſuch a wonderful number of fools by its irreſiſtable power.

There was a moſt motley groupe of figures in divers poſtures and attitudes exhibited in this place, which upon the occaſion contained as motley a company; ſeparate arrangements being prepared for the reception of perſons of all ranks and degrees. I had ſeen that kind of theatrical repreſentation upon the ſtage, which is termed comedy; but had no idea of the poſſibility of diſplaying comic humour in horſemanſhip in the pantomimical ſtile, till I was moſt agreeably convinced to the contrary by divers characters of drollery being admirably ſuſtained by ſeveral of the performers, and by the clown in particular, who in his line exceeded all conception, and obtained very deſervedly univerſal applauſe.

There were other ſpecies of entertainment, and amongſt the reſt, that of a modern conjurer exhibiting ſome of his aſtoniſhing feats by dexterity of hand. But this was as fulſome to us as the other was pleaſing, nor could we but be diſguſted at a fellow's affecting wit and raillery, without a ſpark of real humour, or deſpiſing the folly and credu-

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lity of gaping fools who laughed at his ill-timed jeſt, and admired his juggles as extraordinary manœuvres. His performances in fact were aukward and uncouth, poor in deſign, and wretched in execution; his harangues were hackneyed, common place ſtuff; inſomuch that if Mr. Conjurer had juſtice done him, he merited moſt richly to have been toſſed in a blanket, as a ſuperior diverſion for the poliſhed part of the company, to any which he, by the united powers of his arts manual and oratorical, could poſſibly afford them.

The ſpectators in point of character and appearance produced many pleaſing and laughable contraſts, being equipped to the very extravaganza of the mode that now prevails both in high and low life. In an oppoſite ſeat were ſeveral of thoſe gentlemen emphatically termed loungers, killers of time, whoſe mighty buſineſs is to yawn, loll, and ſtare about 'em; they are the cyphers of the creation, and wage perpetual war with reaſon and common ſenſe. Thoſe roaring ranting blades below (ſaid my friend) are members of the reſpectable ſociety of good fellows, as they call themſelves; but in reality they juſtly come under the odious, deteſtable appellation of libertines; a character equally diſgraceful to human nature and human ſociety.

A libertine may be repreſented as an earthly fiend, who ſpreads a general contagion around him, through the force of moſt corrupt principles and pernicious examples. His very

employment is to project and execute miſchievous deſigns, in which he never fails to be aided by his boon companions; for vice and infamy ever find abettors. No law can bind, no tie civil or ſacred can reſtrain him; impelled by the force of the moſt diabolical paſſions he ruſhes into the commiſſion of the moſt fragrant enormities, regardleſs of preſent guilt and future conſequences.

His life is one continued ſcene of impiety; and as he is a very apt ſcholar in the ſchool of vice, he needs very little tuition, but reaches the firſt form at a very early period of life. Some inſtructors he muſt have had, with whom, though they may juſtly be deemed the authors of his miſery, it is his chief delight and ſupreme happineſs to converſe and aſſociate. To baniſh thought, drown reflection, and ſtifle conſcience, he has recourſe to the intoxicating power of liquor; for ſurely his intervals of reaſon muſt repreſent to his mind ſcenes attended with the extremeſt horror, and that muſt raiſe compunction in the moſt obdurate breaſt.

Alas! thought I, wretched mortal, I pity thy delirium. Thoughtleſs creature, wilt thou continue to dream without waking? Is not your conſtitution enough impaired by debaucheries? will your eſtate ward off the ſtroke of death, or your jovial companions intercept your paſſage to that country, from whoſe bourn no traveller returns? Be wiſe therefore, and think once at leaſt, ere it be too late.

I was

I was inſenſibly carried into this rhapſody, by reflecting on the character ſo fully diſplayed by my friend; though every object around me ſeemed to counteract a ſentimental idea; but it is poſſible for the mind at all times to retire and contemplate ſubjects in a pleaſing kind of abſence known only to thoſe who can enjoy it.

We were now as it were imperceptibly tranſported to a ſcene of gaity, by the entrance of a groupe of fine ladies, attractive in their charms, and tempting to behold. But upon obſervation, we found theſe beauteous creatures were mere adventurers, that their buſineſs was to make captures, and that they were the humble ſervants of any being in male form that could produce the king's picture upon demand.

To form a contraſt; in an upper gallery, a poſſe of females diſplayed their charms, but in a different garb: theſe were tricked out in figured linen gowns, ſtraw hats with flowing ſtreamers of variegated ribbons, and decorations peculiar to their claſs, who in the language of their companions are elegantly termed flaſhy molls, and dreſs in what is called the knowing taſte. In oppoſition to the beau and the buck, there was the knatty boy, or kiddy, diſtinguiſhed by the Tyburn top, the flaſh button, and the large round hat, with the brim encircled by a broad band with an enormous ſtaring buckle, and other appendages appertaining to his claſs.

Such were the diverſions, and ſuch the company of this much frequented ſpot; a ſhort viſit to which was by no means foreign to my deſign, wiſhing to comprize as general a view of men and manners as the ſcope I have allowed myſelf will poſſibly admit. Fully ſatisfied with what we had ſeen, we left this amphitheatre of wonder and merriment a conſiderable time before the performance cloſed, having a deſign to paſs an hour at an edifice in the Strand dedicated to Apollo and the Liberal Arts.

Accordingly, to ſave time, we popped into a hackney coach, and were rapidly conveyed to the place of deſtination. Upon entrance we were much pleaſed with the elegance and convenience of the ſtructure, which does honour to the projector and the artificer, and claims the encouragement and protection of the public. It was the evening of the week in which the ſociety for free debate on ſubjects moral, political and philoſophical, is ſtatedly convened; and though, as the ſeaſon of the year is againſt inſtitutions of this nature, the company was but thin, there was ſome inſtruction, much amuſement, and great laughter afforded by the gentlemen who exhibited their reſpective talents in that graceful qualification, called elocution.

The moderator appeared to be a modeſt ſenſible man; though neither a Cicero, nor a Demoſthenes, yet he propounded the queſtions with decent propriety, and ſummed up the arguments advanced pro and con through-

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out the debates, with preciſion, accuracy and candour. The firſt queſtion propoſed was, " Are Politics the concern of every Individual " Member of the Britiſh Empire ?"

The firſt gentleman that roſe to ſpeak to the queſtion, was a native of Scotland, who addreſſed the chair to the following effect:

" Mr. Moderator,

" I riſe to put a negative to the queſtion propoſed, and as I never wiſh to act or ſpeak without aſſigning the cauſe and motive, and reaſon upon which my action and my words are founded, I take the liberty of offering my thoughts upon the ſubject now ſubmitted to conſideration. Mr. Moderator, I think it very extraordinary that nothing can be done either in the kirk, the ſtate, the navy, nor the army, but comes under the cenſure of a cracking whelp of a politician (here the North Briton was called to order from the chair) I ſay a politician, Mr. Moderator, who takes every falſe report upon credit, and is not wanting in ſpreading it with additions for truth, ſo prone are people to the idle humour of neglecting their own buſineſs, and minding affairs which do not at all concern them.

" A man may make enquiry how matters go abroad or at home; he may rejoice at good news, and be ſorry at bad; yet to diſcover an unneceſſary forwardneſs in concerning ourſelves with all the occurrences of court, city and country, ſhews that people have very little buſineſs of their own to do at home, or if they have any buſineſs at all, that they as little

employ

employ their thoughts about it. For my part, Mr. Moderator, I am apt to think moſt people have concerns enough of their own, without ganging abroad and intermeddling with buſineſs they have nothing to do with. This, Sir, is one of the moſt reigning vices of the age, and I wiſh people, inſtead of cenſuring others, would look at haume and ſee that aw be right there, I am ſure it would much more become them.

" As to the government of nations, the declaring of war, the making of peace, the appointment of miniſters, and the appropriation of the general fund, they are matters above the ken of the common people, and ſhould be ſubmitted to ſuperior characters and wiſer heads. From theſe, and many more weighty reaſons that might be urged, I infer, Mr. Moderator, that politics are not the concern of every individual member of the Britiſh empire."

Our orator had no ſooner ſat down, than an honeſt Hibernian ſtarted up in reply, and expreſſed himſelf to this purport; " As I was bred and born a free ſubject, and am reſolved to continue ſuch to the day of my death, I cannot, Mr. Moderator, hear a word uttered againſt liberty and property, either in public or in private, without oppoſing the ſame with hand and voice. The gentleman laſt on his legs, Sir, talks a great deal about the church and the ſtate, and the navy, and the army; pray, Mr. Moderator, who ſupports the church and the ſtate, and the navy,

and

and the army? Why the people at large, ſure; and it is a hard caſe, I ſay a very hard caſe, Sir, if the people at large cannot be allowed a little talk for their money. Words are but wind, they can neither make wrong right, nor right wrong; and after we have ſaid all that we pleaſe, and all that we can, why theſe matters remain in the very ſame ſtate and condition as they were in before we ſaid any thing upon the ſubject at all.

" But, Sir, I muſt go much further, and affirm it to be the duty, as well as right of every individual of this kingdom, nay, of the three kingdoms, to examine into the ſtate of the nation at large, to ſeparate the honeſt men from the knaves, to know his friends from his foes, the brave man from the paltroon, and to diſtinguiſh thoſe who merit honours and rewards, from thoſe who deſerve the halter or the block. For my own part, I am determined to think upon politics, and talk upon politics, unleſs the great men in power ſhould take it into their heads to lay a tax upon our thoughts and our words; which if they did, I believe I ſhould contribute my ſhare towards the increaſe of the revenue in that particular; for I cannot ſee my country in danger and hold my peace, though I was taxed ever ſo high. Not to tire your patience, Mr. Moderator, I muſt take upon me to ſay, by way of concluſion, that, in my opinion, the leaſt man in the kingdom has as good a right to ſpeak his mind upon all ſubjects, at all times, and in all places, as the greateſt; and therefore I give

my

my voice on the affirmative ſide of the queſtion."

A grave looking perſon then aroſe, and from the general ſilence and attention he appeared to command, raiſed an expectation of hearing ſomething worthy our notice and regard. After a few moments preparation, he thus proceeded:

" Mr. Moderator,

" As I think the point propoſed for diſcuſſion this evening exceedingly applicable to the times, and highly important to every ſubject of theſe realms, I ſhall ſpeak my thoughts upon it with that liberality and candour, which I hope will ever accompany my words and actions.

" If by politics we are to underſtand that conſtitutional form of government, eſtabliſhed on the baſis of liberty, and confirmed by Magna Charta, which is the peculiar boaſt and glory of theſe realms, it is doubtleſs the concern of every individual member of the Britiſh empire; nor can an individual be regardleſs of the ſame, without incurring the imputation of a defect moſt cenſurable in its nature; I mean, the love of our country.

" The gentleman from the other ſide the Tweed may, from principle or intereſt, echo the doctrine of deſpotiſm and arbitrary power; but, Mr. Moderator, you are entitled to the thanks of the company for reprehending and calling him to order, when his warmth led

him

him to the uſe of very indecent and unbecoming expreſſions ; for in ſpite of theſe notions he may have imbibed, it is the privilege of every free ſubject to crack, according to his phraſe, to ſpeak his mind, according to mine, of every tranſaction in any department that relates to the executive part of government. Every individual is a conſtituent part of the whole, and of courſe hath a proportionate intereſt and concern in whatever affects it, whether it be good or bad. The miniſters of ſtate are confeſſedly the ſervants of the people as well as the crown, (though it is the prerogative of the latter to appoint them) and conſequently amenable to the people for their conduct in the reſpective departments in which they are employed.

" The gentleman who ſpoke laſt, though he may deviate a little from order, and have ſome peculiarities of manner, has uttered plain honeſt truths ; particularly when he found the right of the people to cenſure the conduct of miniſters, relative to church, ſtate, navy, and army, (which he might have comprized in leſs terms) on their ſupporting the church, ſtate, navy, and army ; indeed their right is unalienable, and cannot be reverſed but with thoſe laws on which the whole conſtitution is founded.

" It is affirmed, and with great truth, that mankind are generally influenced by their paſſions or their intereſts ; that with reſpect to their principles and practices, univerſally con-

conſidered, they are the ſame. Theſe conſiderations, no doubt, have ever been the cauſe of political ſquabble, and actuated men in power throughout all ages; but they by no means alter the invariable rules of right and wrong, by an appeal to which, all matters between man and man are to be decided, though all men are neither competent nor equal judges of the ſame. From the knowledge and experience I have gained, I am indeed determined never to embroil myſelf with politics or religion, as they frequently ſerve as maſks to cover the deſigns of pride, ambition, and avarice; nevertheleſs, I will ever maintain and aſſert my right of private judgment, reſpecting both theſe particulars, which I conſider inherent in me as a free born Engliſhman."—An univerſal plaudit ſignified the approbation of the company; the gentleman was complimented from the chair, and as the time was elapſed, the queſtions for the following night were given out, and the ſociety broke up, and my friend and I departed highly gratified with our entertainment.

But the ambition of being orators, and of excelling in the art of elocution, it ſeems is not confined to the male ſex; many of our modern ladies having attained to a conſiderable degree of perfection in the ſame, ſpecimens of which have been given in the grand aſſembly near Soho, and other places, where the lords of the creation, as they arrogate to ſtile themſelves, have been compelled to ſubmit

mit to the irreſiſtible power of female eloquence; indeed, from the days of mother Eve to the preſent hour, the ſex has never been behind hand in that particular.

CHAP. V.

City and City Manners—Portraits and Caricatures.

IF we look into hiſtory, or ſurvey the moral or ſatyrical productions that have been handed down from time to time, we muſt obſerve that writers in general moſt vehemently exclaim againſt the wickedneſs and corruption of the age in which they live, and that they repreſent it as ſurpaſſing any former, and ſcarcely to be paralleled by any that ſhall ſucceed.

We can form no other idea of the moral or commercial ſtate of our country in times previous to our own exiſtence, than as handed down to us by the writings of our prēdeceſſors; but we have ocular and demonſtrative proofs of our own, as agents neceſſarily and unavoidably concerned in a part at leaſt of many tranſactions.

That luxury, pride and vanity, have been and are the bane of this our nation, is ac-

knowledged by all, from time immemorial to the preſent day ; how far the obſervation is juſt, and thoſe vices are in faſhion this very hour, it will be my buſineſs, in character of a Peripatetic on a ſentimental tour, to diſcover and point out, as a warning to the younger claſs of mankind, leſt they ſplit upon a rock ſo fatal to many who have gone before them.

The city of London, ſo called, in diſtinction from the court and court end of the town, as the mart of trade, the ſeat of commerce, or grand emporium of the kingdom, ſhould ever hold forth to all others, an example of induſtry and œconomy, as the principal ſources of national wealth ; would there was not a neceſſity of honeſtly declaring, from long experience, the ſad reverſe !

That gaity and luxury univerſally prevails in the city, we need not but viſit the houſes, and obſerve the equipage, dreſs, and manners of the chief inhabitants, who ſeem to vie with each other in pomp and ſplendour.

Paſſing through Cheapſide, I had the mortification to obſerve a faſhionable lady put into the hands of a fruiterer half a crown for a pottle of ſtrawberries, and the next minute refuſe a wretched beggar a halfpenny, with the uſual rebuff; " ſuch nuiſances as you ought to be ſent to the houſe of correction." I would by no means plead in behalf of common beggars, but ſuch an inſtance of extravagant indulgence on the one hand, and

want

want of fellow feeling on the other, could not but excite in me a deteſtation of the character.

That decency of dreſs and ſimplicity of manners, which appeared formerly to have marked the mercantile claſs, are now rejected as ſtiff, aukward, formal, and old faſhioned; nor will the youth of the preſent day condeſcend to thoſe ſervile, laborious offices, as they term them, to which their compliant anceſtors ſubmitted in days of yore.

With reſpect to the middling claſs of tradeſmen, they have conſtantly ſome object or other to divert their attention from the main chance. Calling at an honeſt tallow-chandler's, with whom I had been long acquainted, I obſerved that he had as many cards and printed bills of invitations, upon his chimney-piece, as a man of faſhion has billet deux left by his valet upon the table, for his inſpection when he riſes in the morning. Curioſity inducing me to review them, I found one was to invite Mr. Dip to dine upon a haunch here; another to attend the lodge of Humguffins there; a third to partake of a wager loſt at brother Leache's; a fourth to attend the club of the Free and Eaſy, Matt Midnight in the chair; a fifth to favour his friend Sam Squeezem with his company at a houſewarming, a fine turtle, dreſſed in exquiſite taſte, to be ſerved up; a ſixth to make one of a party at whiſt, at Kit Chance's, &c. &c. &c. to the end of the chapter.

To complete his fortune, or rather misfortune, my friend Dip ſinging, what is called by the fraternity of idlers, a good ſong, is eternally peſtered with the ſolicitation of ſome fool or other who is to take the chair at a punch club, puſh the glaſs about for the emolument of a landlord, to his own deſtruction in health and circumſtances, as well as of the company in general. Theſe and other incentives to idleneſs, luxury, and diſſipation, tend to enervate and divert the mind from buſineſs, and are certain ſources of the ills which ſo frequently attend the trading part of mankind.

Another allurement to pride and extravagance, is the cuſtom which ſo generally prevails of keeping carriages. If enquiry is made of a perſon, appertaining to any of the liberal, or what are termed the genteel profeſſions, as a rule by which to eſtimate merit, it is aſked, "Pray does Mr. Such-a-one keep his carriage?" My friend Phil Peſtle, the apothecary, though a man of ſome ſenſe and experience, gave into this faſhionable folly before his circumſtances would admit, and by affecting to be what he was not, became what he otherwiſe would not, a bankrupt.

Thoſe who belong to the faculty, whether in the preſcriptive or manual line, find an equipage to be a moſt eſſential appendage to their profeſſion, nor can they poſſeſs themſelves of the good opinion or pocket of the patient without it.

Doctor

Doctor Fingerfee, a practitioner of approved ſkill, being called in upon a conſultation on the caſe of Mrs. Salmon, a fiſhmonger's lady in Leadenhall market, at a time when his carriage was at the maker's to be repaired, and therefore under the neceſſity of coming in a hack, was ſent from the door by the fond loving dear man of a huſband, with this declaration ; " that if poor Mrs. Salmon could be ſenſible ſhe was attended by a doctor out of a hackney coach, it would throw her into ſuch a fit of hyſterics, as would certainly coſt her her life."

But what fills the purſes of the faculty, is not the real but affected maladies of the upſtarts of the age. Mrs. Butt, taken from the waſh-tub by a drayman, who became enamoured of her charms, is now arrived to ſuch a contemptible pitch of folly and affectation, through the acquiſition of a little money by retailing malt and ſpirits, that if the wind blows upon her, ſhe takes cold, and muſt call in the aid of the faculty for the preſervation of a life ſo precious to the community, inſomuch that the doctor is two or three times a week at the door ; and all this, if you would believe the declaration of fools, is for the credit of the good man, who is therefore flattered with the title of the beſt of huſbands.

I heard laſt week that lady Dinah Delicate, dying in Devonſhire ſquare in child birth, the matrons who waited upon the occaſion imputed the cauſe to the man-midwife, whom they accuſed as a murderer for

walking thither, though the flags were perfectly dry, and it was in the height of the ſummer ſeaſon. To cloſe the ſtrictures upon this branch of folly, I caſt an eye the other day upon a certain character, rolling through the ſtreets in a ſuperb equipage, with great velocity; who, if the laws of the nation had been duly and impartially executed, might have been drawn very ſlowly with his back to the horſes, in a two wheel'd vehicle up hill, to the doleful ſound of St. Sepulchre's bell.

That domeſtic expences are greatly encreaſed, is evident beyond a doubt, and plainly deduceable from the weight of taxes and the variety of articles upon which they are impoſed. Commodities of foreign importation are prodigiouſly increaſed to the conſumer, by the exorbitant duties laid on them; and yet ſuch is the luxury which prevails, that there is, if poſſible, a greater demand for them than ever. The tables of too many are not, as formerly, emblems of plenty, but luxury; not of a well regulated œconomy, but an exceſſive profuſion; and the effects are ſeverely felt by thouſands every day.

As another inſtance of the prevailing pride and affectation of the preſent day, I had lately an opportunity of reviewing the veſtry regiſter book of an extenſive and populous pariſh, where there were abundance of Anna Marias, Carolina Matildas, Sophia Tereſas, Charlotta Auguſtas, &c. in the families of mechanics and ſhop-keepers. The plain homely

homely appellation of father and mother is now rejected, as too indelicate for the mouth of Miſs Laſt the ſhoe-maker's, or Miſs Anvil the blackſmith's daughters; and the ridiculous parents would deem it a great breach of duty and reſpect, if they were not addreſſed in the elegant, delicate, modiſh phraſes of papa and mama.

There was a character pointed out to me by a friend at the London coffee houſe, a few days ago, highly deſcriptive of this ridiculous affectation of appearing to be what we are not. This was a Mr. George Glare, who had been for a time ſhopman or porter at an eminent draper's, and from a conſciouſneſs of an agreeable perſon and figure, given chace to fortune ſome years, till at length, a relation dying, he became poſſeſſed of a few hundreds, a gold repeating watch, and a very rich brilliant diamond ring.

Mr. Glare, to qualify himſelf for a gentleman, and exhibit in that ſtile to which he was intitled by the late acquiſition, firſt renounced all his former acquaintance, nor could even recollect the face of an honeſt townſman, to whom he had been indebted for many a dinner when he firſt came to London, a rude, uncultivated boor, in queſt of any ſervile place that might offer.

Inſtead of taking his pint in the evening at the Horſeſhoe, he is ſtuck up in the moſt conſpicuous part of a coffee-houſe, to exhibit his ſweet perſon to public view, and

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particularly to diſplay his brilliant ring; ſo that there is a particular intimacy between his right hand and his forehead.

Though deſtitute of real religion, he appears at church every Sunday; but the darling ring attracts his eye more than the prayer or the parſon. In the evening he viſits the tea-gardens, in company with upſtart fools like himſelf, and is moſt dexterous in the management of the cup and ſaucer, ſo that the ring may produce its effect; nor can a greater compliment be paid, than to enquire the time of the day, as by lugging out the watch in the preſence of a numerous aſſembly, he is tickled to the very ſoul. Theſe are his ideas of a gentleman, than which none can be more truly oppoſite in every inſtance; and as a proof, the fellow is as univerſally deſpiſed now, as he was reſpected while he kept within the bounds of his underſtanding and ſituation in life.

The parade of office is another gratification of pride and vanity, and highly expoſes the folly and ignorance of mankind. There are many offices truly reſpectable in themſelves, and which reflect honour upon thoſe who fill them with ability and integrity. A man of ſenſe will deport himſelf with complacency and affability in every ſtation; he will not ſwell on the empty title of Mr. Alderman, Mr. Deputy, or Mr. Chairman; he will not take a pleaſure in exerciſing arbitrary ſway over unfortunate creatures, who may by virtue of office, come under his immediate cogni-

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zance and direction: to ſit at the upper end of a table exalted above the reſt of his brethren, will not add a cubit to his ſtature, nor are there any charms in preſidency for him; nor will he embroil himſelf or his friends at city elections, nor eat or drink more at a tavern, or a hall, than at his own table. By ſhewing how a man of ſenſe will deport himſelf in office, the behaviour of a fool will of courſe be inferred, by placing it in a point of view totally oppoſite, as a fool muſt from the notice of things, be the reverſe of a man of ſenſe; which ſhall here ſuffice, inſtead of drawing the odious contemptible picture at large.

Pride is in fact the meaneſt and moſt contemptible paſſion that can poſſeſs the human mind; it not only exalts us in our opinion, but hoodwinks us as it were to the merits and perfections of others. The modern art of pleaſing in converſation ſeems to centre in a knowledge of the mythology of the times; that is, the chit chat, or common talk of the day, by which many a ſuperficial prattler has paſſed for what is ſtiled by fools, a clever fellow.

Of all the characters which infeſt the metropolis, (court and city) is the gentleman of ſpecious appearance, who lives by ways and means, or, as it is commonly phraſed, nobody knows how. The grand reſource of theſe leeches of ſociety is gaming, which was never more prevalent than at the preſent day; from a diverſion, it has abſolutely become

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an occupation, and muſt be founded on covetouſneſs in thoſe, who having a competence, cannot plead neceſſity, and on fraud in thoſe who being neceſſitous, have recourſe to it as a means of living, both of which pretences are equally contemptible.

When in Ireland, I was invited to a friendly dinner with a man of conſiderable fortune; the cloth being drawn, a motion was made by ſeveral of the company for the introduction of the dice. The maſter of the feaſt, without ceremony, put a negative; which occaſioned a perſon preſent to diſcover his ſurpriſe, that a man of ſo good a fortune ſhould object to a caſt at hazard: the reply was ſhort but appoſite; "Sir, that is the very reaſon for which I do object; I am content with what I poſſeſs, and therefore covet not the goods of my neighbours."

Having by prompt inclination a partiality for the ladies, I would wiſh to draw the veil of good nature over their foibles; but when they degenerate into vices, as a ſentimental Peripatetic, I cannot paſs them over unnoticed. A woman who never wiſhes to peruſe any thing but the Hiſtory of the Four Kings, is a picture too odious to behold, as ſhe muſt have renounced whatever is amiable in the ſex. This attachment to play has baniſhed converſe, wit, and pleaſantry, and introduced feuds and animoſities; perſonal beauty charms no more, and every man of the leaſt diſcretion, muſt loath that woman who has an eye to nothing but his pocket.

Beſides,

Beſides, a ſourneſs of temper, and an inſenſibility to delicacy are contracted by play, from an indulgence of ſpleen that overſpreads the whole countenance, and gives a moſt forbidding caſt to the features in general.

Thoſe who are connected with ſuch women, as huſbands, ſons, or daughters, are in a moſt piteous ſtate indeed; for it may be truly ſaid of them, as the continual round of their lives, that "they eat and drink and riſe up to play;" unmindful, that as wives, they have families to govern, and huſbands to pleaſe; as mothers, they have children to inſtruct by precept, and influence by example; as women, they have characters to maintain and adorn; and all this for the honour of their ſex, and the good of ſociety in general. Perhaps the prevalence of this paſſion amongſt the ſofter ſex, may, in a degree, have contributed to the degeneracy and corruption of the other; — but of this no more; the ſubject palls; and it is hoped the hint will be taken by ſome of our fair friends at leaſt.

It may be ſaid of the town in general, reſpecting its manners, its characters, and caricatures, that it is the nurſery of vice, the forge of vanity, and a perpetual ſource of temptations and allurements to evil. The life of man ſeems to be an amuſing dream; one is amuſed by ambition, another by avarice, another by honour, and every one is amuſed by ſome fooliſh paſſion or deſire; and

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the philoſopher is amuſed to think that the whole ſcene is nothing but amuſement, till he makes his exit, as well as thoſe who cannot ſee ſo far into a mill-ſtone as himſelf; and thus ends the chapter.

CHAP. VI.

Marriage-a-la-Mode—Match-makers, or Matrimonial Brokers—Connubial Bliſs defined—A Recipe for the Qualms of Widowhood.

PASSING by, in one of my excurſions, a portico of a church at the weſt end of the town, I could not but obſerve two gentlemen in black, in conſultation, as it were, upon ſome very important and intereſting matter. Theſe I found to be the curate and ſexton of the pariſh, waiting the arrival of a happy pair, who were coming to obtain their paſſport to the land of matrimony.

The blade, who gave me the intelligence of this great event, obſerved, that this matrimony was a land that peopled all others, and added to the honours of the commonalty; that they contributed more eſſentially to the propagation of the ſpecies than the nobility,

bility, for this obvious reaſon, that the latter are more addicted to ramble abroad.

I remember a wag who plied in the Fleet-Market, and looked out for cuſtomers to walk in and be tacked together in an inſtant, as barkers do in Monmouth Street, to haul you in by the ſkirt of the coat, to be ſuited in the cheapeſt and moſt ſpeedy manner. Upon my expreſſing a wonder at the multiplicity of Mr. Tackem's buſineſs, he exclaimed, "Lord, Sir, if you knew how many different motives there were for marrying, your wonder would ceaſe immediately." I have often reflected on the obſervation, which I have ſince found verified in numberleſs inſtances; ſome are allured by portions, others by love; ſome get themſelves into the nooſe without conſidering what they are going to do, and others know no more than that the thing muſt be done.

There are men in the world ſo weary of quiet and doing nothing at all, that they marry to divert and employ themſelves. The choice of a woman occupies them for ſome time; interviews, feaſts, recreations, parties and ceremonies, protract the ſpace of amuſement; and when the laſt ceremony is over, perhaps they repent the whole tranſaction. It has often occurred to me, that if any gentleman in ſable, could obtain a licence to unmarry, the profits from thence accruing would exceed a primacy; as we may obſerve many, nay numberleſs once fond loving couples, after the ſecond year of their being

united in the ſacred bands, have nothing more in common, than their names, their ill humour and their miſeries.

Nor will this be matter of wonder, when we conſider that many precipitately enter into this ſtate, either wholly from an impulſe of their own, or wholly from the perſuaſion and at the inſtance of others. A man who marries, as the world expreſſes it, to pleaſe himſelf, not ſeeing that in his fair partner which is obvious to every body elſe, is in danger of diſcerning much more in her than ever was diſcernable by others. There are amongſt us ſome modeſt, puſillanimous, timid creatures, that, wanting courage to make the attack themſelves in form, ſubſtitute others in that buſineſs, which cannot with propriety be tranſacted but by the principal. Theſe are very advantageous dupes to thoſe buſy or mercenary mortals, who know every one's buſineſs and family connections, throughout a very extenſive circle of acquaintance, and therefore are conſidered as moſt convenient go-betweens, where acceſs, through want of reſolution in the one party, or through diſtance in the other, cannot eaſily be obtained.

We may find in this line of buſineſs, adepts, both male and female, that will bring the ſhame-faced ſwain to an interview with a fair one, ſuited to his years, circumſtances, and occupation; in ſhort, poſſeſſed of every qualification, except thoſe trifling ones of humour and inclination, with which they never

never concern themſelves. Through the aſſiſtance of theſe active interpoſers, a marriage is trumped up, like a bargain in traffic, after ſome wrangling and much diſpute as to the dowry of the intended bride.

But the fortune-hunter's aim is commonly a rich widow, and his ſucceſs very much depends on a good perſon and a large ſtock of aſſurance, which, well applied, ſeldom fail of forcing the citadel to ſurrender. Notwithſtanding what has been alledged concerning modiſh matches, and modiſh match-makers, it is confidently affirmed, that the married ſtate is capable of happineſs in every ſenſe and degree: but if regard be paid to money, independent of every other conſideration, it is abſolutely bartering, inſtead of marrying, or in other words, eſtimating the merit of a woman in proportion to the pounds ſhe brings as her fortune.

Nor is happineſs to be obtained by a regard to perſonal charms alone, or making choice of a wife, as you would ſelect a flower in the garden, merely for the beauty of its colouring, for the one muſt and will fade as well as the other. But for an old man to take a young woman, is downright dotage, and the very perfection of folly.

Having commented thus far on a very bright and popular ſubject, methinks I hear the following queſtion propoſed. Pray, Mr. Sentimental Peripatetic, what is it to be married, and in what does the happineſs of the ſtate conſiſt? I reply briefly thus:

it conſiſts in a mutual choice of the parties, with circumſpection and deliberation, from inclination, and not from intereſt.

The land of matrimony has this peculiarity annexed to it, as an inſeparable appurtenance, that ſtrangers deſire to ſettle in it; and the real inhabitants would wiſh to deſert it for ever, generally ſpeaking, and with reference to the million. There is, indeed, a kind of legal exile to be obtained, called divorce, and ſometimes ſeparation by conſent of parties. But widowhood is the moſt eaſy, as well as effectual paſſport, and far preferable to ſeparation, particularly reſpecting the wife, to whom the cauſe of it is too frequently imputed, though the fault lies at the door of a huſband, who takes abundant pains to claim his advancement to the dignity of the horns.

Widowhood is a angerous, though a copious ſubject, and according to the bright phraſe, " the man who concerns himſelf with it, is in danger of burning his fingers;" for if he repreſents the ſabled lady, as a meer external mourner, he may incur the imputation of tranſgreſſing the rules of decency and good manners; and if on the other hand, he ſhould exaggerate their grief, he may not only violate truth, but obviate an event moſt devoutly wiſhed by the diſconſolate fair.

Notwithſtanding the ſarcaſms of paltry jeſters, and witling railers, there is a ſorrow inſeparable from the ſtate; for what can be a ſorer burthen than to affect grief, a taſk incumbent

cumbent on every widow, who would wiſh to avoid the cenſure of malevolent tongues. Some, indeed, like the accompliſhed player, can call forth the tear at will, as well as the deep-fetched ſigh; others, by nature obdurate, have laboured to act the mourner, but all to no effect. A certain lady within the circle of my acquaintance, being reproached with inſenſibility, by a relative of her deceaſed ſpouſe, for that ſhe had not ſhed a ſingle tear, urged, in vindication of herſelf, the weight of her calamity, which had ſo overwhelmed her as to deprive her of all ſenſe, and prove that ſhe had "that within which paſſed ſhow."

Another unfortunate dame, on whom I chanced to call the very day in which her dear partner made his exit from this troubleſome world, was apparently driven to the laſt deſpair; for, to aggravate her woes, ſhe had not only loſt in one fatal hour, a companion in her huſband, but the joy of her heart, in the deceaſe of poor Adonis, her beloved lap-dog. This complicated loſs had ſuch an effect as to endanger her life, as ſince, for a conſiderable ſpace, ſhe could neither eat, drink, or ſleep, nor could receive a viſit from the moſt intimate friend. In theſe confirmed caſes of deſpondency, time is the only remedy to wear off the impreſſion, and reſtore to the uſe of reaſon; however, to break the ice, it was deemed moſt prudent firſt to introduce a word of condolement on the loſs

ſuſtained by the premature death of the poor Adonis.

The very mention of a name, which had long ſounded momentarily in her ears, excited ſuch an impetuous torrent of tears, that a prudent friend obſerved, it was very happy the poor ſpouſe was not brought to her remembrance, as in that caſe ſhe muſt have expired on the ſpot. When her grief was ſomewhat mitigated, I took upon me to applaud her ſenſibility, and to infer the effect the mention of her huſband muſt have on a mind ſo delicately ſuſceptible, with this doceur: " 'Tis happy for you, madam, and " poor Adonis too, that the lovely creature " is no more; for ſurely a perſon of your " exquiſite feelings can love nothing after " the loſs of a huſband." Thus did this prudent lady alternately lament two irreparable loſſes, and by that means prevent the fatal effect that ſuch immoderate grief for one might probably produce. It was obſerveable, that at the bare mention of the one animal, her tears burſt forth, while there was a total ſuppreſſion at the name of the other; this was doubtleſs a ſort of a qualm, for it is well known that tears are the mere effects of ordinary ſorrows; however, the unfortunate widow paſſed many long days and tedious nights in this ſad alternative.

At length a good friend, who had caſt an eye of deſire upon the widow, through much enquiry and application to thoſe gentry who

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live by dealing in bipeds and quadrupeds, had the good fortune to procure a beautiful diminutive, ſhagged, long-eared creature, far ſurpaſſing the departed minion, and preſented it to the weeping fair, who received it with tears of joy. This new object of affection ſoon erazed from her memory the idea of the former; and poor Adonis was no more thought of than if he had never occupied a corner of her heart. Now mark the conſequence; if a new lap dog (inferred the ſuitor) has ſtopped the effuſion of her tears, probably a new huſband will have a powerful effect upon her qualms; he therefore plied her warmly with entreaties, views, ſighs, proteſtations, kiſſes, palmings, and all the implements of love's artillery; and in the ſpace of about three weeks, prevailed with the widow to admit him in character of huſband, to a part of her bed, with the beautiful creature which he had introduced to precede him. This recipe is therefore preſcribed from confirmed experience of its efficacy; though our fair readers are with all deference left at full liberty to reject or adopt it, as may beſt ſuit their opinions, diſpoſitions, and inclinations.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Thoughts on Play-houſes—The Source of the Depravity of dramatic Repreſentation—Opera-Houſe — Picture of Courts — State Farces in a capital Theatre by principal Performers.

AS it cannot be ſuppoſed that the Peripatetic, in his tour of remarks and obſervations on the variety of men and manners, with which this metropolis ſo fully abounds, could paſs over with an eye of indifference, the theatre, or world in epitome, conſiſtently with his character; his views and thoughts are now directed to that very general and faſhionable ſubject.

Taſte, as it refers to manners, ſpeculative and practical, has erected three edifices here for its own correction, improvement, and refinement. A modern author very judiciouſly obſerves, that they are improperly called play-houſes, as their grand object is noble, ſerious, and important in its very nature and deſign, which are the promotion of virtue, and the ſuppreſſion of vice.

That vice abounds in all degrees, modes, and terms is evident, from its having afforded ſufficient

ſufficient matter, incident, and character for thoſe numerous dramatic productions which have been exhibited from time to time, for ſeveral centuries, in different parts of the world.

There is not a more infallible criterion of the manners of any age or people, than the ſtyle of dramatic exhibitions, which conſtitutes what is called the reigning taſte; for true 'tis pity, and pity it is, 'tis true; dramatic writers, actuated either by motives of intereſt or fame, find a neceſſity for adapting their pieces to the reigning taſte, or prevailing faſhions of the day, however corrupt or vitiated it may be ſuppoſed to be. Such being the lamentable but unavoidable caſe, inſtead of the power of genius controuling manners, we find manners too frequently controul genius.

There has, within the ſpace of a very few years, been a glaring inſtance of the truth of this obſervation, in a moſt abſurd faſhion introduced by our modern caterers for the public entertainment, of reverſing characters, or exhibiting the heroes in petticoats, and the heroines in breeches. In pieces where the plot depends upon ſuch metamorphoſes, it is admiſſible by the laws of criticiſm; but to reverſe whole plays indiſcriminately, equally proves the venality of the director, and the folly of the audience. If Shakeſpeare's maxim is valid, and the deſign of the drama is to hold the mirror up to nature; to invert the order of that very nature muſt be theatrical

trical proſtitution, and ſubverſive of the end the ſtage was deſigned to promote.

I lately popped my head into that dramatic region, wherein I remember real taſte and genuine humour to have preſided, during the theatrical reign of our Engliſh Ariſtophanes, (now alas! no more) and was not a little diſguſted at the repreſentation or rather miſrepreſentation of Gay's moſt excellent opera in the modern ſtyle of reverſe, or, if the expreſſion may be allowed, the *vice verſa* of character. Never was there exhibited ſuch an extraneous groupe of figures; Filch outvied all conception, and afforded a moſt diſguſting proof, that a female could be diveſted of every trail of ſemblance and department that ſhould characterize the ſex, and exhibit ſuch a ſpectacle of blackguardiſm, as is hardly to be met with throughout the purlieus of St. Giles's; indeed, the better the actreſs in this proſtitution of character, the greater was my abhorrence; as was the caſe likewiſe with ſome of the males. If there was any degree of merit, or any one circumſtance that could entertain, it was the great imitative and vocal powers of the aſſumed Polly, who appeared ſo perfectly contraſted to Tom Tugg, or the hardy tar; though I was much more pleaſed with hearing than ſeeing, upon this occaſion, a performer in general manly, expreſſive, and nervous.

But let this hint ſuffice, while we paſs on to obſerve, that ſo perverſe is the nature of man, that frequently the main deſign of

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the dramatic leſſon is defeated by the ſpectator's imbibing thoſe principles and adopting thoſe very practices that tend to ridicule and expoſe. For inſtance, the fop ſeeing himſelf pourtrayed to the life, acquires ſome additional airs that more ſtrongly mark the coxcomb; pedants learn ſelect ſpeeches from plays, which occaſionally produced in an awkward tone and manner, proclaim them accompliſhed blockheads; rogues find out ſchemes and plots, the more fully to diſplay their villany; and thoſe who are viciouſly diſpoſed, whether male or female, are too often impreſſed by the ſcenes, rather as incentive to, than diſſuaſive from, the indulgence of their moſt prevalent paſſion. To ſuch the vicious character appears eaſy and natural; the virtuous, rigid, and affected; in conſequence of which the one is embraced, and the other rejected. Some pieces have been conſigned to theatrical damnation, as dull, tedious, and diſguſting, for abounding with ſentimental and exemplary characters, which were conſidered as monſters, hideous to behold. This depraved taſte has ſubjected the hireling dramatiſt to the neceſſity of producing farcical nonſenſe for the ſuperficial, double entendres for the wanton and laſcivious, frothy compliments for the coxcomb, preciſe and formal ſpeeches for prudes, and flattering inſinuations for coquettes, which, jumbled together, form a compleat theatrical hodge-podge, or dramatic ſalmagundy.

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Our pantomimical repreſentations are equally abſurd and ridiculous, and calculated meerly for the entertainment of children both in years and underſtanding; add to this, the clapping, ſtamping, hiſſing, and groaning, which generally attend a firſt night's performance; and every wiſe man would wiſh to abſent from, rather than pay for a ſeat to behold, a mixture of noiſe, nonſenſe, and confuſion. Amidſt this jargon of men and things, thus promiſcuouſly huddled together, unleſs the ſpectator can abſtract the good from the bad, and derive moral leſſens from the whole, he attends them to little purpoſe; and ſuſtains not only a loſs of money, but a loſs of time, which is equally precious. Upon the whole, though ſuch recreations may be innocent in themſelves, yet they are ſo generally vitiated and corrupted, and the pleaſure they afford ſo intermixed with danger, that they are but a kind of counterfeit enjoyment, and will rarely ſtand the teſt of mental fruition. They may, indeed, be ſomewhat grateful for a time; but being repeated, they grow flat and dull, and at length abſolutely loathſome. Mankind, in the purſuit of pleaſure, rove about from object to object, fooliſhly endeavouring to maintain one courſe of amuſement through a continued ſucceſſion and circle of varieties.

As the greateſt inſtance of a prevailing degeneracy of taſte, and a monument of

Engliſh folly and extravagance, ſtands an elegant theatre, wholly ſet apart for the Italian opera. The patrons of this ſpecies of public entertainment are ſo attached to empty ſound, that manhood is ſacrificed at the ſhrine of the muſical god. Here the feelings of nature, and the expreſſion of the paſſions, are burleſqued in the warblings, trills, and ſhakings of an air, or what is called recitative; but, in plain terms, is neither ſpeaking nor ſinging. Surely none can derive ſatisfaction from theſe exotic exhibitions; but ſuch as being loſt to the ſtriking beauties of ſenſe, have recourſe to the vacuum of ſound, and may therefore be denominated infatuated idiots.

Beſides, the encouragement of thoſe emaſculate hirelings tends to enfeeble the manners, and ſpread a contagious effeminacy amongſt our riſing nobility. Here, inſtead of having preſented to them the noble examples of patriots, warriors, and ſenators, who, in their reſpective departments, have glorioufly exerted themſelves in their country's cauſe, is ſet before them a groupe of creatures, neither male nor female; and which, though extolled by many, are void of all that manly ſignificance and characteriſtical action, which conſtitute the merit of dramatic repreſentations. Such, alas! being the taſte too generally prevalent amongſt what are termed the great, can it be wondered that we have ſo many military fribbles, coxcomical ſenators, and naval beaus?

As from obſervations collected in the courſe of my rambles, in character of Peripatetic, I have long conſidered the theatre as an epitome not only of the world in general, but what is called the court in particular: the hints given on the one ſubject natural ſuggeſt remarks on the other; which, it is preſumed, may be, in ſome degree, intereſting, entertaining, and improving.

The experience of courts, conſidered as the rendezvous of the great, affords much knowledge of the world, and teaches more uſeful leſſons than the beſt library that can poſſibly be collected. A great man's promiſe may be ſaid to be the touchſtone of patience; and, from the numberleſs inſtances of their failure, we ſhould learn to fortify ourſelves againſt the events of an evil day, or an unfortunate diſappointment.

The ſtatelineſs of a building, the elegance of furniture, the grandeur of monarchs, the brilliancy of a levee, and all the glittering ornaments which attend a throne, are apt to diſturb our quiet, infuſe envious and ambitious thoughts, and ever cauſe us to aſpire to rival the courtier in all his honours and dignities. The ſumptuous banquets of that bewitching ſpot take off our reliſh for the homely fare of our own tables; the ſplendour of equipage dazzles our eyes, and induces us to look upon our ſervants as creatures of a different mould; the bed of down, arrayed in ſilken veſt, raiſes in us a diſguſt to our own plain couch; titles render the

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ſimple appellations of Sir and Madam hateful to our ears; and the whole ſcene collected in one view, ſets our brains a madding; and has, in all ages, been the deſtruction of many.

A man of ſenſe and moderation, who has learnt to be content with his condition, whatever it be, will ſhun the dazzling pomp of courtly ſplendour, and the perfidy of thoſe minions, which are termed courtiers; who, in point of honeſty, may generally be compared to the jobber in the alley, of religion to the libertine; and, of good ſenſe, to the country looby.

If we advert to hiſtory, the precarious exiſtence of court favour will appear in numberleſs inſtances. Many who ſtood high in their princes eſteem have been baniſhed their preſence with a frown; and, by one ſpurning mandate, ſtripped of their emoluments and honours. Nay, others in the meridian of their glory and ſplendour, have fallen victims to the calumniations of their enemies; and ſome few honeſt men have been brought to the block, for declaring their opinions according to the dictates of their conſciences.

A perſon in a middling, and even inferior ſtate, who is ſure to fall no lower, is in a far more eligible condition; and as to the ſtate of beggars, they have their degrees; and, it is well known, they have a republic amongſt themſelves. Here I muſt apologize for a digreſſion to make way for a little anecdote,

communicated to me on a late tour a few miles into the country.

A perſon was obſerved, for ſome ſucceſſive ſummer ſeaſons, to frequent a place within the purlieus of royalty; and making a decent appearance, without any apparent means of ſupport, it was conjectured he was one of thoſe who live by ways and means; and, accordingly, a wag took upon himſelf to interrogate him as to that matter.

The man of the world did not give an explicit reply, though, from what he ſaid upon the occaſion, there was reaſon to conclude the conjecture was not without foundation; however, to obviate farther enquiry, he aſſured him, that, for the ſake of frolic, and to decide a wager, he had ſo far deceived an intimate acquaintance, as to paſs on him for a blind, maimed beggar, aſking alms in a very populous thoroughfare of the metropolis. Though apprized of the deſign, ſuch was the art and adroitneſs of this finiſhed impoſtor, that by means of turning the white part of the eye outwards, contracting one of the arms, and a general diſguiſe of dreſs, he not only obviated all ſuſpicion on the part of his acquaintance, but from the piteous ſpectacle he exhibited, extorted his charity, with theſe words that accompanied it; "There, my friend, are all the half-pence I have." This being a known matter of fact, the profits accruing from this trade cannot be aſcertained, though they may reaſonably be ſuppoſed

poſed to amount to more, upon the whole, than many of our tradeſmen and mechanics can raiſe by following their reſpective occupations. But to return from our digreſſion to the ſubject under conſideration.

A dependance on courts is nothing more than a dream; and when we are rouzed from the deluſive reverie, we diſcover its folly and fallacy. By endeavouring to raiſe ourſelves through this kind of intereſt, we too frequently precipitate ourſelves into a worſe ſtation than that in which we were before the hazardous attempt; and fall, in point of circumſtances, in proportion as we flattered our vanity and ambition with the hope of riſing. To fawn and cringe to a man in power, to wait his ſmiles, and rely on his promiſes, diſcovers a meanneſs of ſpirit, and the moſt egregious degree of folly; for, did we conſider as we ought, that the time of ſuch-a-one is too much taken up in the purſuit of ſtate buſineſs on the one hand; and gallantry, with variety of amuſements and pleaſures on the other, to admit of the remembrance of paſt promiſes, or diſcharging them as becoming a man of honour, we ſhould renounce all dependence on ſo broken a reed.

But admitting our towering hopes to be crowned with ſucceſs, and that we are elated to a height of grandeur equal to our moſt ſanguine expectations, we know not how long our continuance in that ſtate may be, or how ſoon the ſcales may turn, and our condition be reverſed. On what a tottering

foundation then do we build theſe hopes, which are liable to be blaſted by a word; and may vaniſh, perhaps, in the very moment of expected indulgence? Of ſuch it may be ſaid, that they have been in a labyrinth or a dream, wherein the glare of ſome fond proſpect has clouded, as it were, their ſenſes, and tranſported them beyond their reaſon. They have cheriſhed a viper in their boſom, till, at length, they begin to feel the acuteneſs of its ſting. They have courted a miſtreſs, outwardly beautiful and tempting, till fatally diſappointed by her falſhood, and rejected by her frowns. Theſe truths, confirmed by woeful experience, ſhould teach us to avoid thoſe dangers into which others have run, and inculcate this very uſeful and important leſſon, as an approved lecture of moral philoſophy, that virtue is the baſis of all happineſs, and contentment the foundation of all real enjoyment.

Amidſt this jumble of ideas, ſuggeſted by reflections on theatres, dramatic and operatical exhibitions, courts and courtiers, perſons high, middling, low, one with another, my tour was, as it were, impulſively directed to a theatre, ſituate within the liberties of Weſtminſter, and not very diſtant from the grand mart of equity and juſtice, where I was, on my arrival, informed I ſhould be entertained with a tragi-comic performance by ſome very capital actors.

The title of the piece was SELF UNDER THE ROSE. The dramatic perſonæ too full

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and motley to admit of deſcending to particulars; ſome of the characters were admirably ſuſtained; others were mere foils to the principals; and others only ſerved to fill up the proceſſion. The plot was no leſs than the good of a nation; the actors were its delegates, with full commiſſion to lay their heads together, talk, move, and hold up hands, as they ſerve up punch upon Ludgate Hill, PRO BONO PUBLICO.

The buſineſs of the piece was conducted by making and ſpeaking to certain motions, upon which each mover averred for his reſpective motion, that the plot was abſolutely and eſſentially founded. The debates were as various and oppoſite as can be ſuppoſed on the moſt extenſive plan of PRO and CON; and never was there more pains taken, or art diſplayed occaſionally to prove black, white, and white, black, by the moſt ſubtle logicians of the ſchools, than ſome of theſe accompliſhed diſputants evinced, in proving wrong to be right, and right to be wrong, and all upon the ſame invariable principle; to wit, the one ſelf ſame plot, that was, THE GOOD OF THE NATION. This was the grand preſumptive argument, though the opinions and inferences deduced, from the various poſitions, were as diſtant as the eaſt is from the weſt.

After attending to the reſpective harangues for the ſpace of upwards of four hours, till my ideas became as perplexed as ſome of thoſe intricate reaſoners had rendered the ſubjects of their diſquiſition, I took my departure,

ture, and adjourned to an adjacent coffee-houſe to ruminate on what I had ſeen and heard.

A moſt excellent farce indeed (thought I, upon the ſentimental plan) and admirably performed. If the perfection of an actor upon the mimic ſtage is totally to diveſt himſelf of himſelf, and enter into the character he profeſſes to ſuſtain, there never appeared more finiſhed performers than in this piece upon the ſtage.

The name of the nation, upon whoſe intereſt the plot of the piece was profeſſedly founded, was BRITANNIA; but there was too much ground to conclude from the general implication of the arguments adduced, that, under pretence of promoting the intereſts of poor Britannia, they were artfully calculated to ſubſerve thoſe of the ſpeakers; indeed they admitted of ſhrewd ſuſpicion of betraying the very cauſe they pretended to eſpouſe.

I could not avoid reflecting, that ſome of the ſcenes repreſented a mart of politics; where the nation alluded to, was, as it were, bought and ſold. Under the falſe colour of ſanction, and the pleaſing dream of privilege, theſe delegates ſeemed to lay the heavieſt burthens upon thoſe very people from whom they derived their commiſſions.

Long winded ſpeeches were made with the greateſt vehemence in favour of both war and peace, ſo that upon a public pretence, there was ground to conclude, they were urged for

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the purpoſe of private emolument; nay, it muſt be obvious to every man with his eyes open, that to perſonal contracts, both private property and public treaſure have too often been moſt notoriouſly ſacrificed; and the very power of protection has been perverted to the means of deſtruction.

Some of the delegates moved for additional taxes, from a motive of lopping off the luxuriances of commerce, and invigorating the general ſtate ſyſtem; but they rather inclined in the judgment of impartiality to ſap its foundation, and leave the trunk withering beneath the blighting influence of avarice.

To ſupport a venal power, they ſeemed to have formed a venal intereſt, and all under the idea of conſtitutional legality. Under the notion of a government declaratively free, and divided into three diſtinct parties, many of theſe inſinuating orators endeavoured to eſtabliſh maxims evidently favourable to arbitrary ſway, not for the ſake of the prince, but riveting the fetters of the people, and thereby paving a way for them to plunder them at large with impunity. Upon the whole, the plot and deſign of the piece entirely correſponded with the title, SELF UNDER THE ROSE; the MASQUE was uniformly kept up; the actors, at leaſt, received apparent ſelf-approbation in the performance of their reſpective parts, whatever inward qulms they might feel; and thus concludes the ſcene, and drops the curtain.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Diſpenſatories and Diſpenſers of Law, with their Train of Appendages ſuperior and ſubordinate — Divinity and Divines, clerical and ſelf-created—Quacks univerſal.

MUSING with myſelf on what I had ſeen and heard, as ſpectator and auditor in the very ſolemn tranſactions which paſſed in the late ſtate farce, I was naturally led to direct my thoughts and obſervations to other farces that are performed at ſtated terms of the year, at an adjacent theatre, ſet apart for the diſplay of orators, and the due award or appropriation of what is emphatically called, by profeſſors, the MEUM and TUUM.

The avenues leading to theſe places, in term, or market time, I obſerved, were always crouded with gentlemen of the venerable robe and important tye; but, as in the former, ſo in this latter aſſembly, the auditors were numerous and the ſpeakers few; this profeſſion being as much monopolized as many others. Falling, caſually, into converſation with a ſaunterer, who, like myſelf, was parading this mart of words, I was amuſed with the jocularity of ſo ſingular a genius. He remarked the maxim, that nothing was durable

rable in this tranſitory world was proved, in this ſpot, a paſſable contradiction, where there are matters, called chancery ſuits, of moſt durable continuance, as thouſands have found by woeful experience; certain conſumers of parchment, denominated ſolicitors and barriſters, making it their buſineſs to ſtrike the ſhuttlecock from hand to hand; and by keeping it, as it were, in perpetual motion, drain the pockets of their clients, and thereby, of courſe, bring the griſt to their own mill.

No wonder, replied I, that theſe gentlemen are ſuch adepts in the art and myſtery of protraction, or ſpinning out a ſuit, as they are under a neceſſity of ſerving a five years apprenticeſhip to the trade of tautology, the very life and ſoul of their profeſſion, of which, though the premature deſign might be to preſerve property entire, the preſent practice ſeems tending to the means of dividing it.

In this populous and variegated ſpot there are many ſeminaries for the cultivation of youth in that grand department of the police. They are furniſhed with libraries, containing moſt voluminous treatiſes on the moſt voluminous ſubjects that can come under human diſquiſition; but the misfortune is, that in the deciſion of the moſt intereſting points, decrees, inſtead of being founded on right, are generally influenced by precedent, ſo that equity is too often controuled by the report of the caſe. Indeed, the grand leſſon taught in theſe ſchools is, to learn not what ought to be, but what has been; and, above all, the

pupils

pupils are enjoined ever to hold in remembrance tautology, vulgarly called repetition, the univerſal motto and very principle of their exiſtence *ad infinitum*.

Certain courts may be termed the diſpenſatories of law; and certain venerable ſages the diſpenſers of it. One of theſe courts was wiſely inſtituted to correct the abuſes of the reſt; how far this ſalutary deſign is promoted, is not for me to determine; thoſe may beſt judge whoſe pockets have been drained by the enormous expences attending proceſſes; for, it muſt be confeſſed, that in law, contrary to every other matter, the price of words encreaſes in proportion to their abundance. This being the caſe, property is often ſo diminiſhed by litigation, that when the conteſt is decided, it is ſcarce worth the notice of the party to whom it is awarded by decree; ſo that, in many inſtances, the whole affair is nothing more than giving money for words, and receiving words for money.

Over one department in this diſpenſatory preſides a learned and venerable perſonage, who, beſides being veſted with the power of hearing matters of felony, breaches of the peace, oppreſſion, &c. &c. is the appointed guardian of prerogative; and it is to be proved, from the records of hiſtory, that a Jefferies, under pretence of preſerving prerogative inviolate, has extended it to the oppreſſion of the ſubject.

There have alſo been inſtances, where ſophiſters have been amply rewarded for confounding

ſounding and miſleading an impartial, though illiterate evidence, perplexing matters clear in themſelves, and perverting even that invariable law of God and Nature, called Equity.

That trial by peers or equals, is the glory of our conſtitution, muſt be univerſally admitted; as theſe twelve perſons were certainly appointed to controul the prejudice of judges, and the miſrepreſentation of counſel; an inſtitution admirably calculated for the maintenance and preſervation of the lives, liberties, and properties of the ſubject. But as theſe are choſen often from amongſt men, in the ordinary ſphere of life, they are liable to be miſled by rhetorical artifice, and logical ſophiſtry; nor can we always condemn their deference to the injunction of ſuperior abilities and learning. The charge is often given by the judge with that force of argument, as to have ſuch an effectual influence on the jury, that they give their deciſion without heſitation, according to the direction of the perſon before whom the cauſe is tried. Thus matters are often prejudicated by partiality, or decided by ignorance or undue influence; in this caſe it muſt be concluded, that truth is ſuperceded by chicanery, juſtice by authority, and equity by oppreſſion; ſo that law in either of theſe caſes is perverted in its very execution.

But there are commiſſioned by this ſuperior power, a ſet of petty magiſterial tyrants, or Jack's in office, who were originally created for the purpoſe of enforcing part of the ſta-

tute law, relative to the highways, the poor, vagrants, treaſon, felony, riots, the preſervation of the game, &c.

To refine the characters of the far greater part of theſe diſpenſers of law, it may be truly ſaid, that though ſticklers for the obſervance of it in others, they are no followers of it themſelves. Like many canting zealots, they can preach up and recommend ſobriety to others; but indulge themſelves in the greateſt exceſſes.

Though ſo ignorant is Mr. Juſtice, that he cannot ſet his name to a mittimus, I dare not upbraid him with the appellation of blockhead, as it would be an affront to the repreſentative of royalty, and a blot in the eſcutcheons of the whole reſpectable fraternity. A little learning, indeed, goes very far with his worſhip; yet by the aid of a large wig, and a look of importance, together with ſome hums and has! judiciouſly introduced, he will paſs as no inconſiderable member of the body politic, and cauſe many a poor delinquent to quake and tremble at his preſence.

As ſome of theſe ſelf-ſufficient cyphers are choſen for conſequence of property, and others appointed, who make a mere trade of their office; they often pervert the ſtatutes, which were ordained to be the bond of ſocial compact, to the gratification of pride and caprice on the one hand, or a rapacious diſpoſition on the other. Thus, the innocent too often ſuffer, while the guilty eſcape the hand of juſtice; the offences of rich rogues

are palliated, and thoſe of poor knaves aggravated; in a word, puniſhment is inflicted, rather from a wantonneſs of power, than a due conviction of criminality.

My caſual aſſociate frequently nodded aſſent to the obſervations I made, on the very intereſting ſubjects to which the place we paraded naturally directed our thoughts; and proceeded to remark, that theſe grandees of law could not poſſibly move in their exalted ſpheres, without the aid and aſſiſtance of ſubordinate tyrants, called thief-takers, conſtables, beadles, watchmen, &c. all of whom have their reſpective means of preying, extorting money, or committing robbery with impunity. By the permiſſion, or rather connivance of theſe mercenary myrmidons, property is plundered, right invaded, vice enforced, and virtue diſcountenanced, through every method that fraudulent art can deviſe, or lawleſs force can execute.

But of all the animals of prey, who live on the vitals of their ſpecies, the moſt hideous are thoſe human vultures, vulgarly ſtiled bum-bailiffs, which infeſt every quarter of the metropolis and its environs. Theſe forbid wretches, by privilege, convert their own houſes into priſons, where, under the humane pretence of ſaving the unfortunate from the horrors of a common gaol, they firſt impoveriſh them through extortion, and then turn them ſtarving into a loathſome dungeon, to make room for other wretched objects of their rapacious plunder.

Where there is money, the word will be taken, and a temporary freedom may be purchaſed, always to the diſappointment, and frequently to the loſs of the creditor, in which caſe he is duped, as well as the debtor, by the fraud and chicane of theſe harpies of ſociety.—Thus much for law, and the tribe of law; from which every honeſt man muſt moſt heartily join in the general deprecation, "Good Lord deliver us."

Law, phyſic and divinity, (I remark'd as prompted by our late ſtrictures) are termed the three learned profeſſions, of the utmoſt importance to mankind, and requiring the greateſt abilities and cultivation on the part of their reſpective profeſſions. To the two firſt, in my courſe of obſervations as ſentimental peripatetic, I had curſorily attended, and pointed out from experience, in what inſtances they were liable to perverſion, corruption, and quackery.

And are there not quacks in the latter, (obſerved my companion) as well as the former profeſſions? Doubtleſs there are, and abundantly more numerous. Within this town and ſuburb it is computed there are between three and four hundred places devoted to public worſhip, from which a reaſonable obſerver might conjecture, that the world would wiſh to make up in appearance all they want in point of reality in religion. LUDERE CUM SACRIS, is what I would ever wiſh to declare, as well from principle, as a conviction of its pernicious tendency; but when

pretenders

pretenders obtrude themſelves into departments of life, eſſential to the welfare of the community, without the neceſſary requiſites of abilities and education, and when thoſe with the advantages of ſuch endowments pervert the ſame, they deſerve the laſh of cenſure, and public reprehenſion becomes a virtue.

Religion, ſimply beautiful in itſelf, might be reduced to a very plain and compact ſyſtem, and taught in a manner obvious to every perſon of the moſt common degree of underſtanding; in a word, it is ſo laid down in the oracles of truth, that ſo far as it reſpects every neceſſary article of belief and practice, he that runs may read. But to ſubſerve the purpoſes of ſects and parties, and gratify avarice, ambition, pride, and vanity, it has been fine drawn into a number of creeds, rites, forms, and ceremonies, and theſe have been impoſed on the world by their reſpective votaries, as points eſſential, without which the end could not poſſibly be obtained; and though many of the tenets enforced are directly reverſed, they are all uttered with the pretended ſanction of a divine origin. O Man! Man! how fallible! how poſitive! how preſumptuous!

As in phyſic, the Quack peremptorily aſſerts the infallibility of his noſtrum, as a ſpecific; ſo in divinity, the Quack advances his favorite tenet, as a current paſſport to heaven; and as the former inſolently deals out abuſe on the regular practitioner, ſo the

latter impiouſly pronounces anathemas, nay thunders out execrations on the ſound and able profeſſor. Indeed, candour itſelf muſt acknowledge, reſpecting the ſects, that too many profeſſions, like Swiſs ſoldiers, who fight without patriotiſm, pray, and preach without principle, and are actuated by the ſame prevailing motive, namely, the deſire of gain.

Nay, charity, that emanation of the Deity, is ſometimes made an incentive to vice; and people are encouraged to ſin upon ſcore, by being taught to believe, that a few pence given in alms will wipe off a long reckoning of debts, incurred by tranſgreſſions of the law, moral and divine. Thus charity is rarely ſeen accompanied by her native train, ſympathy and generoſity; but influenced by the ſordid views of intereſt and fear. In this caſe, the very ſtamina of morality is corrupted, and the nobleſt motive for doing good, namely, the love of it, diſcountenanced and ſuppreſſed.

The controverſies and debates which prevail amongſt us of theſe kingdoms, who enjoy a toleration reſpecting ſuch matters, have produced the moſt baneful effects; as from thence, ſhallow, weak, and credulous perſons are trapanned into a proſtitution of their property, in deſigning knaves and pretenders to piety, who laugh in their ſleeves, while they riot on the common of hypocriſy, and feaſt on the credulity of the ignorant and unſuſpicious.

Thus

Thus there are quacks of all profeſſions, denominations, ranks, and degrees, in church and ſtate, in the law and in the army; they are characterized by the ſame particular, however different their occupations; and are equally injurious to the community at large, by dabbling in matters, of which they are ignorant, and arrogating advice and direction in affairs of the higheſt moment to individuals in particular, and the public in general. This may be deemed the age of univerſal quackery, impoſtures, and chicane. In ſhort, never did the ſpirit of pride, luxury, extravagance and corruption, abound more than at this day; when mankind are become a ſpecies of quacks in the higheſt ſenſe of the term, by affecting to be that in ſhew, which they are not in reality.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

General View of certain public Edifices, with Reflections, moral and ſatirical, on their various Inhabitants, their Occupations, Departments, &c.

STEERING my courſe to the Eaſtward, a certain building, called by way of eminence, The Tower of London, caught my eye, and ſuggeſted ſome remarks on its uſe and deſign. The ſpot, ſurrounded by thoſe walls, (thought I) has been the priſon of royalty, wherein alſo patriots have been confined for traitors, and ſome have ſuffered diſgrace, and even death, who have deſerved well of their country. Here is coin'd money, eſteemed by ſome the greateſt good, by others the greateſt curſe, entailed upon mortals; its power, however, muſt be univerſally acknowledged at a time when every thing is put up to auction, and ready to be knocked down to the beſt bidder.

Here are depoſited the crownand whole regalia of majeſty, together with the ſpoils and plunder of all devouring war; monuments of human ambition and rapine expoſed to perpetuate the fatality of conqueſts, which terminate in the paltry poſſeſſion of a ſilken rag, and tend at moſt but to aggran-

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dize ſome avaritious or ambitious individual. The implements of death, arranged in form terrific, denote the neceſſity of guarding againſt civil inſurrections; and point out that there have been miſcreants capable of ſheathing their ſwords in the bowels of their country. To tranſmit their memory to lateſt poſterity, heroes are exhibited in armorial array, as principal actors in ſcenes of ſlaughter and devaſtation, and worthy of commemoration, for having given a quietus to others. In ſhort, from a review of this place, I concluded, that in reality, honour and fame, for which mankind affect ſo ſtrenuouſly to contend, are but mere bubbles and empty wind.

Not far diſtant is the mart of cuſtom, or receptacle for the impoſts of duty. Such is the prevalence of ambition and luxury amongſt mortals, that to annex the exigencies of ſtates, and gratify the inſatiate deſires of thoſe who are called the great; genius, induſtry, and labour, are fettered by fines, levied upon their joint endeavours, through a neceſſity ariſing from the vices of mankind.

From this ſource, amongſt others, originates a neſt of hornets, to ſting and peſter the trader, the artificer, the mechanic, and the labourer. From the ſame fountain, rulers derive power to corrupt, depreſs, trample, and, in fact, buy and ſell thoſe very people, who are conſtantly toiling for their ſupport.

Under

Under the idea of national policy, mankind are in a great meaſure debarred the general bleſſings of Providence; they pay for the free light of heaven, and the liberty of converting their own property to their own uſe. In fact, the laws and order of ſociety are hereby inverted, and as to what are termed, liberty and property, the one is little more in reality than a name, and the other, from divers contingent circumſtances, extremely precarious.

But what ſhall be ſaid of that monument of rapine, devaſtation and horror, erected not a mile diſtant from the general receipt of cuſtom? It was raiſed at the price of blood, and contains poſſeſſion, amaſſed by cruelty and murder. Diſtant climes ſurely are more than curſed with treaſures, which ſubject them to the inſatiate ravages of cormorants, in human form, who may juſtly be termed, The Leviathans of the earth. What ſhall be ſaid of theforce of religion and virtue, in a chriſtianized country, where money can purchaſe the ſanction of law, and the aid of arms, to plunder the property and deſtroy the lives of the innocent and peaceful? Where human nature is ſacrificed on the ſhrine of ambition, there can be no regard to common juſtice or common honeſty; yet ſuch isthe fatal influence of gold. that from that very ſpot, men are choſen to be guardians of public liberty, and public property; but the ſlaves who accept the offering of bribery,

bery, as they are bought, well deſerve to be ſold to baſeſt bondage.

This traffic tends to the corruption of the riſing generation, as too many of our youth, by being ſent to thoſe foreign climes, become corrupted, and degenerate into the moſt abandoned vices. The temperate, through the influence of pernicious example, are rendered luxurious; the open and undeſigning, crafty and treacherous, the manly effeminate, the modeſt audacious, the generous mercenary, and the humane cruel; ſtrange and lamentable metamorphoſes, of diſpoſition and character! Be it my deſire to confine my views and proſpects within a moderate compaſs, nor ſuffer myſelf to covet the property, much leſs to harbour a deſign on the life, of a fellow creature.

Such is policy of the times, that a certain building, which ſtood not far off, and was erected by a venerable citizen, for the cultivation and encouragement of the ſciences, has been ſome time razed, to give way to another receipt of impoſt; it being held as a maxim, amongſt our wiſe governors, that it is of more importance to empty the purſes, than furniſh the heads of the people.

The more griſt is brought to the ſtate mill, the more room for ſtowage is of courſe required; ſo that the expediency of building this granary, was carried by a very conſiderable majority in the political lyceum. This tenement alſo foſters a brood of vermin, which are ever ready to enforce and abet deſpotiſm

and

and deſpotic rulers; and though ſupported by the contribution of the public, would ſap the foundation of their liberties, and join in their general oppreſſion.

Whether the plea of neceſſity be admiſſible, or not, I ſhall not preſume to determine; certain it is, that the far greater number of the people are deprived of the enjoyment of thoſe comforts, and even conveniences of life, to which they are entitled from their labour, by their being raiſed, through enormous impoſts, beyond their power to purchaſe. The means of warmth and cleanlineſs are ſcarcely attainable by ſome; while others, who toil in the moſt laborious exerciſes, cannot, without difficulty, procure a renovating draught, from the advanced price of the common beverage. Such is the deſign, and ſuch the occupation of this edifice, and its reſpective and reſpectable tenants, who have the additional and extended privilege of ſearching all places, at all times, and upon all pretended occaſions; happy thoſe who are moſt free from this official and officious viſitations.

Not many paſſes to the Weſtward is a building, founded on a bubble; ſince, from chance or chicane, it riſes or falls in the ſpace of a day, and ſometimes of an hour; as inflated by ſucceſs on the one hand, or compreſſed by diſaſter on the other: Here the produce of all the public impoſts, or the money voted out of the pockets of the people, by their patriotic conſtituents, is depoſited by

way of pledge; as is alſo the wealth of the opulent, to accumulate through intereſt, ariſing from the burthen of their fellow ſubjects.

Behold, (ſaid a moralizing paſſer by) the manſion of the inſane; in what a pictureſque manner the different kinds of madneſs are deſcribed by the various unhappy wretches confined within thoſe melancholy walls. In other places of a like nature with this, though leſs conſpicuous, are ſome unhappy mortals, who poſſeſs more reaſon than their keepers. Here parents have been lodged by their children, wives by their huſbands, and huſbands by their wives; and here numberleſs relatives have confined others for various and numberleſs cauſes, though all on one and the ſame pretence.

If matters were inveſtigated, it would appear, that ſome wives have been conſigned to this repoſitory, not for having loſt their wits, but their charms; ſome huſbands, not for their mental, but their bodily powers being impaired. Here uſurpers may have impriſoned heirs, whoſe poſſeſſions they have ſeized upon by illegal claim; nay, poverty has, it may be, been immured within thoſe walls, at the inſtance of thoſe who, from the ties of conſanguinity, ſhould have adminiſtered relief; but through the callouſneſs of monſters, have urged inſanity as a plea for the work of the feelings of nature. Various are their employments, various their diſpoſitions, ſome grave, ſome gay, ſome moderate, others frantic, ſome merry, others ſad; in ſhort,

ſt is a diſmal picture of this ſtrange world, which ſome of us ſtrange mortals are deſtined to inhabit.

Appalled with the melancholy ſubject under contemplation, I determined to ſhift the ſcene, and paſſing through an avenue, once dedicated to the pious St. Auſtin, arrived in the purlieus of the grand mart of the metropolis; indeed, I might add, of the known world. The avenues leading to it reſemble an hive of bees, and reſound with an inceſſent hum for the ſpace of time, in which buſineſs is negociated. Here every man is eſtimated in proportion to his poſſeſſions. Wealth taking rank and precedence before dignity, genius, learning, honour, and honeſty, which laſt is the moſt trivial conſideration of all.

To get money is the end; the means whatever is practicable, ſo far as evaſive of law. Friendſhip has nothing to do with trade, nor ſocial connection with individual intereſt. A man of genius may be duped by a blockhead, and the fair trader gulled by a ſwindler; in which claſs may be ranked the majority of alley jobbers, who ſell what they never poſſeſs, and by trumping up a fallacious report, trick credulous fools out of their money, and return home much richer than they came thither. Here the very nature of right and wrong is reverſed, according to the ideas annexed to what is termed, a good man, and a bad man. Contrary to general acceptation, a GOOD man is he, who forfeits his word, to preſerve his credit; a BAD man is he, who

being

being too conſcientious to practices and fraud, thereby loſes his credit. To do well is to make money by taking every advantage either of ignorance, inexperience, neceſſity, credulity, or confidence: "My ſon, make money," being the univerſal theme. Indeed, the very papers plaiſtered on the pillars, and the advertiſements ſtuck, or hung in frames, over the reſpective ſeats around the place, proclaim the ſame doctrine, as they hold out every thing almoſt to ſale, that can come within the ſcope of human invention.

In the courſe of my perambulation, I could not paſs that ancient fabric rendered famous amongſt men, women, and children, for the two renowned figures of Gog and Magog, of whoſe mighty feats, in days of yore, our forefathers related the moſt aſtoniſhing ſtories. In this place people are permitted to game by act of parliament, a certain term of every year being appropriated to their hazarding their property in a legal game, under ſtate ſanctum, called, THE LOTTERY. There is indeed a very ſpecious and plauſible apology for this annual tax; as by hazarding a ſmall ſum, it affords the chance of acquiring ſomething conſiderable. Beſides, it is not a compulſatory matter, it being left to the option of every individual to ruin himſelf, through the enticement of gain; nor could a more artful means be deviſed, of wheedling money out of the pockets of the good ſubjects of the realm. One flagrant ill has ariſen from this ſource; that is, a ſet of cheats or

ſwindlers, who, without paying the ſum of fifty pounds, plunder the induſtrious, injure trade, ruin families, and, in fact, deſtroy the peace, order and welfare of ſociety.

As to the common halls held here, we are told they are called for the good government of the city; but from the noiſe and nonſenſe which generally prevail on thoſe occaſions, it is rather difficult to determine their deciſions. Ignorance on the one hand, and clamour on the other, tend to produce a ſcene of univerſal confuſion. Sanguine patriots have been heard to argue againſt the cauſe they meant to eſpouſe, and miniſterial hirelings have miſconceived the intereſt they have been palmed to ſupport; while profeſſed independants have harangued at different times in favour of both parties.

Here is alſo a department for the arraigning and trying of bankrupts, where the innocent, though unfortunate, are ſometimes treated as rigorouſly as criminals, merely, becauſe loſſes ſuſtained in trade have deprived them of their property, and conſequently of ability to pay their debts. Sometimes, on the contrary, very ſuſpected perſons, through intereſt, are ſuffered to paſs with ſcarce an interrogatory; but this is not the only tribunal where the guilty have been acquitted, and the innocent condemned.

As a perpetual memento, that honours as well as moſt other things under the ſun, are to be ſold, ſtands the herald's office, wherein are depoſited the hereditary inſignia or badges

of diſtinction, which raiſe ſome mortals above their grovelling fellows. This repoſitory is extremely convenient for ſome of our modern great folks, whoſe nobility, unleſs their honours were here recorded, would be to be looked for, nor would it ſoon be found by having recourſe to their actions. That good old motto, *Virtus ſola Nobilitas*, has been ſtrangely reverſed. Indeed the great may ſpare themſelves the trouble of guarding their characters from the attacks of malevolence, whilſt their titles to rank are ſo well ſecured, by the care and vigilance of the heralds. Yet alas! what truly noble man, but would ſpurn honours, which exiſt merely in the tinſel ſhew of a coat of arms! Unleſs dead to all ſenſe of ſhame, many would bluſh to behold their arms and mottos the moſt poignant ſatires on themſelves, for what can be a more forcible burleſque of character, than to have title without deſert, conſequence without merit, and nobility without virtue?

I next took a peep into the region of matrimony, called Doctor's Commons, where they have not only the privilege of granting licenſes for marriage, but alſo of diſſolving marriage, by virtue of divorce. But this ſeparatum cannot be effected without money, and the parties diſhonouring themſelves, by conſent; ſtratagem, or a tacit permiſſion of that infamy they ſeek to revenge in the deſired divorce. Thus, frequently chaſtity is put out of countenance, and modeſty bluſhes whilſt laſciviouſneſs exults, and adultery

triumphs; virtue is punished and vice rewarded. And sometimes there is no alternative but that of being honourable with misery, or infamous with happiness. Here also is instituted a court that gives laws to the sea, by whose power and authority all disputes relative to vessels made prizes by his majesty's navy are adjusted, and such persons as commit depredations on the seas are tried by this court, though on such occasions, held at the sessions-house in the Old Bailey, and punished according to the laws of their country.

Not far distant is a mansion adorned with a magnificent portico, dedicated to the use of the knights of Æsculapius, and called in plain English, The College of Physicians. These venerable dons usurp a privilege of killing by prescriptions. Here knowledge, practice, science, and credits in the healing art, are to be purchased; for as licentiate, there is liberty granted either to kill or cure, provided the practitioner strictly adheres to the rules of the college, which these peremptory gentlemen hold as sacred as the decalogue. Nay, they even arrogate to themselves, a right of punishing all practitioners, who shall in any instance deviate from their prescribed modes and terms, though such methods prove salutary; as if it was criminal to preserve the lives of his Majesty's subjects, by transgressing the forms laid down by their infallible fraternity.

Some honeſt well meaning men, who would cure from principle, kill for want of practice, while others, who have both ability and practice; trifle with the lives of mankind, for want of principle; and to encreaſe their fees, add to the diſtempers they are paid to relieve. The patient, properly ſo called, is ſometimes brought ſo low, to enhance the doctor's reputation in recovering him from the brink of the grave, that the former loſes his life, and the latter his credit. As to the numbers who fall victims to experiment, thoſe who frequent the manſions of charity can beſt judge.

My attention was ſo much engroſſed by the variety of ideas which preſented themſelves during this ſurvey of public buildings, that I was, as it were, inſenſibly tranſported to the Weſtward, as far as that ancient edifice called Weſtminſter abbey; theextraordinary ſtructure of which will perpetuate the ſkill of man to lateſt poſterity. Paſſing the charnel houſe, that common manſion of mortality, in which are depoſited the promiſcuous remains of great and ſmall, high and low, rich and poor, I could not but ſmile at the vanity, pride, and arrogance of man.

This ſpot is profeſſedly dedicated to the ſervice of the deity; but it ſeems in reality converted to the purpoſes of perpetuating human glory, and it admits of a doubt which is moſt honoured here, the creature, or the creator.

What

What numberleſs inſtances of human folly, in erecting monuments to the memory of thoſe who were ſcarcely known when living. Some bards have here a marble exiſtence, by being placed in buſt, through the generoſity of thoſe, who humanely permitted them to ſtarve when alive. A poet muſt generally ceaſe to exiſt, 'ere he can ſoar to the region of fame, nor will the envious, ungrateful world acknowledge him in any dreſs but his ſhroud. Philoſophers are extolled by thoſe who had never diſcernment enough to comprehend the meaning of their productions. Stateſmen are here acknowledged to excel in their different departments, whoſe meaſures were reprobated when living. Warriors are wreathed with deathleſs laurel, who once were cenſured for inexperience or timidity; and kings are repreſented as having raiſed their ſubjects to the higheſt pinnacle of glory and happineſs; who, if credit may be given to our hiſtorical annals, had plunged them into the depths of infamy and calamity.

There is inſcribed on a certain tomb: VIRO NOBILISSIMO, DIGNISSIMO, OPTIMO. What palpable abſurdity! What reverſion of terms. What perverſion of deſign! Indeed, what gothic ignorance not to diſcern, that no ſatire is ſo poignant as eulogium on a worthleſs character! Upon the whole, theſe awards of honour to the dead ſeem, on an impartial view, founded, in reality, upon the pride and vanity of the living.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

On the Importation of Foreigners—Character of a well bred Lady, or modiſh Wife—Minutes of the Society of Fortune Hunters.

THIS metropolis and its environs muſt appear to every obſerver, like the ocean, a general receptacle, which receives and ſwallows up the ſcum and filth, not only of our own, but alſo of other countries; waggons, coaches, and caravans, with divers vehicles of land and water, continually emptying and diſcharging themſelves into this grand reſervoir, or common ſewer of the world. Here the foreigner finds food and footing, grows great, forgets his nakedneſs, and inſults the natives. Here the wearied plowman finds reſt, firſt becomes ſervant, next maſter, then gentleman. It is here the diſtreſſed country girl diſcharges her burthen, gets into place, marries her maſter, becomes a ſhop-keeper's wife, and ſometimes an alderman's lady.

The continent ſupplies this town with muſicians, dancing maſters, and valets: while the northern and weſtern parts of his Majeſty's dominions furniſh their quotas of beggars, pedlars, bullies, and robbers.

A ſhower

A ſhower of rain drove me one day into a coffee-houſe near Charing-croſs, where I obſerved a number of well-timbered, broad ſhouldered fellows, tolerably dreſſed, pouring forth execrations on themſelves and others, at a moſt extravagant rate. One was aſking, if Lord —— had not been there to enquire for him; another curſing his taylor for delaying his court ſuit; a third, praying for the arrival of the India fleet; others were railing at the winds, for not tranſporting their bills, and others damning the red letter'd day, becauſe upon it the bank tranſacts no buſineſs.

Theſe circumſtances induced me to believe them to be perſons of no ſmall importance, and excited my curioſity to enquire into their occupations and character. The lady at the bar, to whom I addreſſed myſelf for information, acquainted me, that ſome of them were gentlemen of the army, without commiſſions, who had never ſeen actual ſervice, nor drawn a ſword in wrath; but bore the travelling names of captains, majors, &c. others were merchants without effects; landed men without property; and concluded with this paradoxical character, that moſt of them lived upon WHAT THEY HAD; the explanation of which ſhe begged leave to decline.

I called for pen, ink, and paper, with a deſign of making comments on what I had ſeen and heard; but obſerving a perſon peeping over my ſhoulder, I changed the propoſed

ſed ſubject into a billet, for a gentleman in the neighbourhood; but not without eſcaping a ſevere cenſure, for making remarks on matters, which, as they paſſed not in my company, of courſe did not concern me. Though I was prevented from committing my thoughts to paper, I ſtill indulged them in my mind; nor could forbear reflecting on the folly and credulity of the inhabitants of this town, who arrogate to themſelves a degree of knowledge and experience above the whole world, and yet ſuffer themſelves to be impoſed on by upſtart, inſolent exotics, who are continually marauding on the public, and are the meer bullies and impoſtors of ſociety.

In the purlieus of the town reſidence of our moſt amiable queen, I have frequently obſerved a great concourſe of foreigners, of different nations, and numbers of others very attentive to them. The former I was told, upon enquiry, were ſecretaries to ambaſſadors and envoys, and the latter true-born Engliſhmen, who were liſtening to their diſcourſe, in order to learn the modern languages. This ſuggeſted to my memory, that I ſcarce ever met with an Italian ſinger, French dancer, or German fidler, who did not ſtile himſelf ſecretary to ſome foreign miniſter. Indeed, I have known a reſident, who has had but few perſons in his retinue, countenance and protect hundreds of theſe nominal ſecretaries at a time. I was once invited to the houſe of an envoy, by one of theſe gentlemen, who entertained me

elegantly

elegantly in his apartment adjoining to the kitchen; over the affairs of which he gave me to underſtand, he preſided as ſecretary and comptroller of the culinary accompts. He enjoyed, however, the favour and good graces of his maſter, in an eſpecial manner; nay, his Excellency was a perſon of that benevolent and gracious diſpoſition, that he had then under his care and protection, a greater number of ſouls, than the prince his maſter had ſubjects in his dominions.

If we advert to the original ſtate of many things, we muſt be aſtoniſhed to diſcover the improvements they have undergone, and the grandeur to which they have attained, from low and obſcure beginnings. Poetry took its riſe from hymns and proverbial ſayings; the majeſty of the tragic muſes, once confined to carts, now vaunts under ſtately roofs. Who would imagine that the vain, gaudy creature, Woman, who now triumphs over her maſter Man, was once his obſequious handmaid, and proud in a primitive ſtate to adminiſter to his pleaſures? Nor was ſhe then taught to belie the ſtrong impulſes of nature, or eſteem it modeſty or virtue to with-hold her charms from a ſincere deſiring lover.

Coquetry was a much more modern vice, introduced when altars were rearedto their worſhip, and coarſe homely matrons were tranſformed into goddeſſes. Farewell the charms of innocence, and that lovely ſimplicity with which nature had cloathed them:

theſe elated beings forgot their priſtine ſtate of dependance; long ſervices, ſighs, and proteſtations, were now the only means of courting their favours. Poets with florid compliments raiſed them to a degree of divinity. All that ſhin'd on ſhells and rocks were brought from far, and half nature laboured for the embelliſhment of their perſons. Thus, by degrees, they became ſo refined, as to plant the horns on the foreheads of the lords of the creation, and aſſert ſovereignty in all domeſtic concerns.

The beauteous Helen ſeems to have had ſo great a ſimilitude in manners to many of our modern females, that it will appear an eaſy tranſition to come down from thoſe toaſts of antiquity, and point out by what ſteps and variations our modern Britiſh ladies have arrived to that degree of politeneſs they now exhibit. To make entertainments, and preſide at table, ſeems to have been the utmoſt ambition of our great-grand-mothers; they ſeldom mixed with public aſſemblies, or, (as we of a more libertine age term it) ſparkled in the circles of the gay. They would have ſwoon'd at the very mention of a maſquerade, and to have expoſed their charms to the view of every coxcomb would have been as criminal as the ſin of witchcraft. They never heard or dreamt of that wicked innovation called pin-money, for they had no other expences than what were ſupplied from the huſband's purſe. To lie in ſeparate beds with them was hideous, nor has their

eyes been taught to roll, or even indicate an illicit deſire.

But theſe old faſhioned virtues are exploded, and pin-money, the parent of many ills, procures the indiſpenſable requiſites of a train of luxuries, and may ſometimes be converted to the purpoſe of ſecret ſervices—A variety of commodities too numerous to be particurized may not improbably be conjectured to ſwell out the pin-money account of ſeveral of our city as well as court ladies. With what courage then muſt that man be endued, who would venture on one of thoſe faſhionable belles, for a domeſtic wife, and chuſe ſuch a partner to go, hand in hand, through the difficulties of life? For women of the character deſcribed find no other uſe in a huſband, than to afford them an opportunity of carrying their deſigns into execution with a better grace.

Nor will a man of prudence find it his intereſt to marry a perſon of ſuperior rank or fortune, if thus faſhionably educated and diſpoſed, as infinitely more expences will accrue than he could imagine, and many more injurious accidents will happen, than he could poſſibly foreſee.

The ſociety of fortune-hunters are ſaid to hold their ſtated meetings at a cerain place of rendezvous, where, one day meeting with ſome of the members of that honourable fraternity, I obtained the ſight of a true copy of their votes, ſchemes, and deſigns, for the preſent year, which, for the benefit

benefit of the public, is here preſented to them at large.

Veneris Die 7° Martij, 1784.

Ordered, That the committee for the buſineſs of heireſſes do attend Colonel Macblunder, to-morrow morning, by nine of the clock, to take ſuch notes for report of the ſaid Colonel's birth, fortune, merit, &c. as may enable him to obtain in marriage a beautiful young lady of very conſiderable fortune, who lodges in his neighbourhood.

Ordered, That Frederic O'Finikin have permiſſion to put himſelf into deep mourning, as for the death of ſome near relation, and that it be inſerted in the public papers, that he is thereby become poſſeſſed of a very conſiderable fortune.

Reſolved, That Morrice Mac Bully, in conſideration of his having paid in his contribution money, be at liberty to retire into ſome of the remote parts of the kingdom, in queſt of an heireſs, and that he have leave to aſſume the dignity of baronet; the ſame, when his purpoſe is obtained, to revert to the ſociety, for their farther uſe.

Complaint being made, that many members of this ſociety are detained in the priſon of Newgate, ſome only on ſuſpicion of debt, and others on trifling and frivolous accuſations, ſuch as rapes, riots, coinings, perjuries, forgeries, bigomies, polygamies, &c. &c.

Ordered, That the keeper be ſummoned to attend the board, with a liſt of the members ſo detained; that proper meaſures may be taken for their relief and diſcharge.

Ordered, That Captain Mac Shammock have permiſſion to aſſume, uſe, and exerciſe four ſeveral names; as the exigencies of his affairs may require.

Information being given, that many inſolent fellows make it their buſineſs to traduce and aſperſe the members of this ſociety, to all women of fortune, within the circle of their acquaintance, to their great injury and detriment;

Reſolved, That the committee of blood-and-ſtands be immediately armed with fire and ſword, to exterminate all who ſhall preſume to be guilty of ſuch mal-practices in future.

Ordered, That leave be given to lord viſcount O'Flam, to marry a number of widows, not exceeding ſix; that he may thereby be enabled to diſcharge his debts of honour.

Ordered, That leave be given to captain Dennis O'Doubtful, to change the place of his nativity, from the county of Tipperary, in the kingdom of Ireland, to the county of Berks, in the kingdom of England, for ſundry reaſons to himſelf beſt known.

Reſolved, That it is the opinion of this ſociety, that the adopted method of ſealing feigned letters with coats of arms, of the

principal

principal nobility, as well miniſters of ſtate, as others, and ſending them to taverns, coffee-houſes, and other places of public reſort, directed to the members of this ſociety, has proved of very great and ſingular advantage; for which the projector deſerves the higheſt eſteem and favour of this ſociety.

Reſolved, That a ſmall gratuity be given to Mrs. Commode, milliner, by way of acknowledgment, for the many and uſeful informations ſhe hath given to this ſociety, of the places of reſidence, circumſtances, diſpoſitions, tempers, reputed fortunes, &c. &c. of ſingle gentlewomen.

A petition from Sir Valentine O'Vanity, knt. was preſented to the board, praying, that the perſons occaſionally employed by this ſociety, as noblemen's and gentlemen's footmen, may in their proper liveries be diſpatched to his lodgings in his abſence, and there leave cards to the following effect, viz. That the earl of Hackney begs the favour of a viſit from Sir Val; that Lord Lubber muſt ſee Sir Val that evening; that Sir Leonard Loggerhead will wait on him tomorrow, to pay him the ſum of fifteen hundred pounds; that Lady Laſcivious congratulates him on his carrying his cauſe in chancery, &c. by which the petitioner will be ſupported in the proſecution of an adventure, that in all probability will turn to the account of two thouſand pounds ſterling; four hundred pounds whereof, in caſe of ſucceſs, he

promiſeth to pay into the ſociety's treaſury, for their uſe.

Ordered, That Sir Valentine O'Vanity be aſſiſted with the agents and footmen of this ſociety, according to the prayer of his petition.

The petition of Michael Mac Taudry, of Monmouth-ſtreet, ſaleſman, was preſented and read, praying, he may be reimburſed the ſeveral ſums of money he hath expended for ſuits, ſwords, and other neceſſaries, from March 1783, to March 1784, for the uſe of this ſociety.

Ordered, That the ſaid petition be refered to the committee, appointed to borrow money and beat bailiffs; that they do enquire into the ſame, and report their opinion on Monday next, preciſely at eleven o'clock in the forenoon.

The board being reſpectfully acquainted, that Captain Smell-blood attended with a drawn ſword, to prove he had ſlain a taylor, within the verge of the court; he was ordered in, and examined; when the caſe appearing to be true;

A motion was made, and the queſtion put, whether Captain Smell-blood, having fell'd his MAN, was not entitled to the honours due upon ſuch occaſions. It paſſed in the negative; the deceaſed being but the ninth part of a man, viz. a TAYLOR.

Reſolved, That in order to ſupport David Indebt, Francis Fitz-Fire, and Philip Fitz-Fury,

Fury, Eſqrs. members of this ſociety, leave be given them to aſſume the characters of gentlemen of the army, or ſtudents in the inns of court, and that Michael Mac-Taudry of Monmouth-ſtreet, the ſociety's taylor, do forthwith equip them with ſuitable neceſſaries.

(A true copy.)

Simon O Shim Sham, Secretary.

CHAP. XI.

Whimſical Diſpute between a Limb of the Law and a Bearer of Brown Beſs. Peep into the Region of Senſual Bliſs. Celeſtial Lectures. Terreſtrial Paradiſe. Promonade of Goddeſſes.

PASSING by the Treaſury, on the firſt day of Term, I obſerved a vaſt concourſe of people aſſembled, and in the midſt of them, a gentleman in black, and a ſoldier of the guards, engaged in a very warm diſpute. Upon enquiry into the cauſe of this extraordinary altercation, a bye-ſtander was ſo obliging as to give me the following information.

It being execution day, the hackney coaches were moſtly taken up, in conveying many of the lower claſs to that melancholy ſpectacle; ſo that the gentleman in black, who it ſeems, was by profeſſion a barriſter, being under an indiſpenſable neceſſity of walking to Weſtminſter, and having occaſion to evacuate, had encroached upon the poſt of the centinel, who had put him under arreſt, on his refuſing to pay the penalty due upon ſuch occaſions.

The barriſter inſiſted very ſtrenuouſly on the centinel's producing the ſtatute in that caſe made and provided, and cited ſeveral precedents and authorities, proving the legality of ſo neceſſary an act, which had been practiſed in all ages and nations, without reſpect to time, place, or perſon. The ſoldier averred, that the amount of the penalty, only a poor ſix-penny piece, was more his right than the coat on his back, and inſtanced ſeveral caſes, wherein it had been paid by officers of the firſt rank; adding, that the act againſt mutiny and deſertion never intended, that the ſervants of their king and country ſhould be liable to ſuch mean inſults without a compenſation; and, that though private ſoldiers were a people placed laſt in the roll of fortune, they ſtood firſt in the liſt of honour.

The barriſter rejoined, and humbly apprehended, that by the ſtanding laws of the realm, no man ought to be fined or ammerced, but in a regular and judicial way, and,

offered

offered to ſubmit the point in debate to this iſſue; that if the ſoldier would undertake to prove the offence wasnot a lawful and neceſſary occaſion, in which all the free-born ſubjects of England were to be protected, he would ſtand convicted. After the caſe had been thus ſpecially argued for near three quarters of an hour, the mob called out for the queſtion, the queſtion, which was ſtated and put as follows. " Reſolved, that it " appears to this aſſembly, that Matthew " Multiply, of Gray's-Inn, Eſq; ſtands in- " debted to Jeremiah Idle, of the third re- " giment of guards, gent. the ſum of ſix- " pence, of good and lawful money of Great " Britain." It paſſed in the affirmative, by a very conſiderable majority; the limb of the law moved to reverſe the judgment, but the motion being over-ruled, he walked ſheepiſhly off, ſhrugging up his ſhoulders as if he thought it an ill omen, to loſe a cauſe on the firſt day of term.

From a general view of men and manners, I have long been convinced, that throughout human life, mankind, whatever may be their pretences to reaſon, philoſophy, or even religion itſelf, are actuated ultimately by intereſt, and, in fact, abſolute dupes to their various paſſions. As we have already remarked, it is evident beyond diſpute, that there are quacks in all profeſſions, and amongſt all ſorts of people, or at leaſt, one party would willingly have the other reputed ſo: for every one who would be eſteemed

wiſe

wiſe himſelf, is ready to fix the fool's cap upon the head of his brother.

Now this univerſal quackery is as univerſally founded upon the old ſtale pretence, the public good, ſo that PRO BONO PUBLICO is its general motto. But according to the phraſe of out-heroding Herod, none ever ſhone ſo eminently conſpicuous in this very conſpicuous point of view, as the celebrated founder of the Temple of Health, ſituated in the purlieus of the Palace Royal. As this ſingular edifice could not poſſibly eſcape the notice of a ſentimental peripatetic, I made an appointment with an intelligent moralizing friend, who accordingly bore me company to that ſpot of refined entertainment. The manſion was ſuperbly illuminated, and ſurrounded with gaudy equipages; but ſuch were the modeſty and delicacy of the lecturer, that, upon the then occaſion, no female auditor could poſſibly be admitted.

The ſubjects of the Doctor's harangue were in themſelves of the higheſt importance to individuals in particular, as well as the public in general; as they related to the reſtoration and conſervation of health, as well as the propagation of the ſpecies. In point of ingenuity the device claims ſingular merit; for after all former ſchemes had been ſo hackneyed, that the world became abſolutely nauſeated with them; our Northern adventurer hit upon a project, that could not fail of a temporary effect, ſo long as the moſt prevalent

lent of all human paſſions is capable of being played upon.

This prince of empirics profeſſed at once to impart the power, and furniſh the agent with the means of performing the grand and principal function of nature. What pretence ſo plauſible? What bait ſo alluring? Nay, he held out a moſt prevailing incentive to vicious gratification, under the artful guiſe of virtuous inſinuation; and further to attract the notice of the emaciated debauchee, undertook to demonſtrate the practicability of moſt potent ſtimulatives, upon principles of electricity.

But with ſubmiſſion to your ſuperior judgment, my profound doctor (thought I) you ſeem in the courſe of your lecture to confound the ideas of ſenſual with thoſe of intellectual perception; when you talk of your celeſtial bed, your paradiſtical enjoyment in ſo enraptured and enrapturing a ſtrain; indeed it may be urged in your behalf, that it is all by way of allegory: O bawd conſummate! under the notion of a heavenly paſſport, to divert unwary mortals into the paths which lead to the verieſt hell. And all this for the public good: faliacious pretence! to found a nurſery for vice, under the ſanction of virtue, and prompt frail mortals to the indulgence of paſſions, which upon every principle of reaſon and nature, ſhould long have ſubſided. Upon the whole, I could not but conſider this doctor, philoſopher, lecturer, as a moſt ſubtle and ſhrewd impoſtor, to whom

whom the whole fraternity of the healing art, preſcriptive, and manual, regular, and irregular, are highly indebted, as ſpreading ſo effectually a contagion, that cannot fail of enabling them to pocket the fee, which is the SUMMON BONUM of all characters, profeſſions, and denominations whatever.

The lecture being finiſhed, the doors of the temple were thrown open, for a general admiſſion of company; which, to uſe the expreſſion of a genius at my elbow, then diſplayed a terreſtrial paradiſe, and might be truly deemed the pomenade of goddeſſes; whether Olympian or Stygian, he did not particularly mention. My eyes were ſo dazzled with the variety of glittering objects, which preſented themſelves, that at firſt I could ſee nothing diſtinctly; till at length, recovering myſelf, I requeſted my friend, who had previouſly viſited this place, and was better acquainted with the characters preſent than myſelf, freely to deſcant on ſuch ſubjects as might be worthy of notice: he obligingly complied; and, after a ſhort pauſe, thus proceeded:

In this promiſcuous groupe are many perſons of the firſt faſhion, and moſt refined taſte, according to the modiſh terms; and as you ſeem deſirous of prying into this ſcene of life, you may perhaps diſcover, that the ſuperior claſs of mankind are as fooliſh, and perhaps more wicked than the vulgar and moſt inferior. You ſee here, the apartments are hung round with looking glaſſes; what

a crowd of ſelf-admirers, male and female; what nodding, calling, and ogling? Here numbers of old fools repair to pleaſe the eye, and view thoſe who muſt ſoon puſh them off the ſtage of life, and occupy their ſeveral departments.

Obſerve that monſter in diſpoſition, though poſſeſſed of perſonal charms, that ſhe might captivate a ſtoic. She had obtained the heart and hand of a youth of rank, fortune, and virtue, and then was as amiable for her mental as bodily accompliſhments; but as an inſtance of the frailty of mortals, the love of gaming grew predominant, and when once her virtue began to totter, it ſoon degenerated into vice. Every tie was forgotten; ſhe now lives at large, and is ſhrewdly ſuſpected of proſtituting that lovely perſon, moſt diſhonourably, to pay what are called debts of honour.

That young hero, with whom ſhe is walking arm in arm, is a modern fine gentleman, poſſeſſed of every requiſite to finiſh the character of a buck or blood; he is looked upon by the men as a perfect ſmart, and admired by the ladies, as an agreeable fellow, and a pleaſing rake. That blade in the habit of a country 'ſquire, is celebrated for intrigues, as the ladies of pleaſure, or pleaſurable ladies, promiſe themſelves the higheſt indulgence, from an intercourſe with a youth of his robuſt frame and florid complexion.

That airy flirt is the virtuous ſpouſe of an honeſt plodding citizen; ſhe comes here, in

all probability, by appointment, to gratify the inclination of ſome rake of faſhion, and plant the horns of a fond, doating, credulous huſband.

The groupe of dulcineas, which juſt whiſked by, are neighbours from the chaſte manſions of King's Place; who, as the doctor has amply prepared his male auditors for a reliſh of the fleſh, repair hither in the line of their profeſſion, to offer their ware to the beſt bidder. Indeed he has a right to lay the whole circle of bawds under contribution; as no man could ever more eſſentially contribute to the general intereſt of their reſpectable ſociety. Such then is the utility of this inſtitution, (concluded my friend) how far it approximates to virtue, or to the epithets given it by the founder, muſt have appeared to you on the preſent occaſion; and I doubt not, but you will join with me in execrating both the deſign and author, as ſubverſive of every principle, civil, ſocial, or religious.

CHAP. XII.

Prevalence of Novelty.—Aerial Voyagers.—Sagacity and Docility of Animals.—Learned Horſes, Dogs, Swine—Manners contraſted.—Sentimental Reflections.

THOUGH it is a maxim founded on the experience and declaration of the greateſt philoſophers, "that there is nothing new under

der the ſun," it muſt be confeſſed, that the love of what paſſes at leaſt for novelty, has ever predominated with us vain mortals, who from the powers of reaſon and reflection claim a ſuperiority over the reſt of the creation. Of this, as a peripatetic, I was fully convinced from numerous obſervations in the courſe of my tour, but by none more forcibly than thoſe which aroſe towards the cloſe of it, from ſome of the moſt extraordinary phœnomena that could ſtrike the fancy, or arreſt the attention of ſpectators.

The importation of exotic faſhions, exotic wonders, and exotic manners, has ever conduced to the emolument of the importers; inſomuch that our credulity and fondneſs for imitation have ſtigmatized our country as the land of fools and apes, and expoſed us to the ridicule of thoſe who have ſo profitably availed themſelves of our foibles.

This may, indeed, be called the wonder-working age, in which invention ſeems to be on the rack to produce ſuch curioſities as ſurpaſs whatever have gone before, and it muſt be added that efforts of this nature were never before ſo much encouraged by public ſanction.

Formerly we had only ſupernatural ideas of aerial voyages, according to Shakeſpeare's beautiful alluſion,

" Like a winged meſſenger from Heav'n
" When he beſtrides the lazy-pacing clouds,
" And ſails upon the boſom of the air."

But now we have realized that, which before exiſted only in fancy; ſo that it may not

be deemed improbable but that, in courſe of time, ſome ingenious device will be found out to enable men to trip on the water with as much velocity and ſecurity as they now traverſe the region of the air.

I was led into theſe remarks from gratifying my curioſity together with a countleſs throng; as ſpectators of the aſcent of ſeveral foreign adventurers in machines of ſingular conſtruction, called Air-Balloons.

When an attempt of this kind was firſt announced, the poſſibility, or rather practicability of it, was hardly admitted; and thoſe of our countrymen, who imagined they could ſee farther into a mill-ſtone than the reſt of their neighbours, pronounced it a piece of foreign fineſſe, like the bottle conjurer, or a domeſtic humbug, like the Cock-lane Ghoſt.

I muſt confeſs myſelf amongſt that number, notwithſtanding all the ſagacity and penetration I have acquired from experience and obſervation. It was my opinion that our good neighbours of the Continent, who exceed us as much in the arts of deluſion as they do in their ſyſtem of politics, meant to play on the credulity of John Bull, who having ſo often, poor fellow, run his head againſt a poſt before, could hardly be ſuppoſed capable of avoiding ſo capital a ſtumbling block as they ſeemed diſpoſed to fix in his way.

I was accompanied to theſe ſights of amazement by a philoſophical friend, who, as well as myſelf, gaped as wide, and ſtared as wild, as any of the great or ſmall vulgar around us.

Various conjectures were formed, particularly on the firſt occaſion; and all the anxiety of expectation was viſible in the features of each individual of the motley crowd: at length the wiſh'd for moment arrived, up went the machine with it's aerial appendage, every eye was fixed in rapturous gaze, admiring mortals ſoar'd above their own ſphere, and were loſt for ſome moments in the contemplation of the exalted object, till it vaniſhed from their ſight, and gave them opportunity of exclaiming, wonderful! ſurprizing!

"Since theſe exhibitions, (obſerved my friend) there ſeems to prevail a kind of aerial phrenzy amongſt us. The term balloon is not only in the mouth of every one, but all our world ſeems to be in the clouds: and from the waving frippery with which our females adorn or rather diſguiſe their lovely heads, one would imagine they indulge the hopes of being wafted by the aid of what are faſhionably termed balloon bonnets or hats, above us male mortals; for it muſt be acknowledged they are too generally ambitious of gaining the aſcendancy."

The ſecond adventurer ſurpaſſed the firſt in the extent of his deſign and excurſions; but either through the attraction of novelty, or the figure and addreſs of the Italian, no others have rendered the undertaking ſo profitable, or been ſo generally careſſed. Such are the effects of prejudice and partiality.

"It has puzzled the wiſeacres, (continued my friend) to determine on the utility of

theſe wonderful machines. Surely, ſaid one, they might be rendered objects of convenience, to tranſport the mails to the Continent, or convey diſpatches from court to court. And why not ſupply the place of ſtages? rejoined another, the plan is capable of much extenſion and improvement, and might bring down the pride of coachmaſters and innholders, who have too long rioted on the produce of extortion.

"A truce to your nonſenſe (exclaimed Sir Gravity in the corner) theſe balloons have ſet your brains a madding. Remember I tell you, all your projects and your ſchemes will vaniſh, balloon like, IN NUBIBUS; and ſo let's diſmiſs this frothy ſubject."

Whilſt this attachment to the charms of novelty prevailed, my friend, as well as myſelf, impelled no doubt by an epidemic rage, determined not to be out of the faſhion.

The rumour of the Learned Horſe, trained and exhibited by the caterer for public amuſements, near Weſtminſter bridge, had long gone abroad. This animal, indeed, diſcovered wonderful ſagacity, and ſeemed to excel all his ſpecies in the variety of manœuvres he diſplayed. It was obſerved by one of the ſpectators, that this ſúrprizing creature could do every thing but talk; upon which a wag took occaſion to remark, that "if he could, it would be more than his maſter could do;" intimating, as was ſuppoſed, that his maſter was a much better jockey than orator; a circumſtance by no means ſtrange, as there ſeems

to be very little affinity between the one and the other.

The next object of curiosity that attracted my notice, was the exhibition of dancing, or rather acting, dogs, amongst the variety of entertainments which are presented to the public by the manager of Sadler's Wells. These animals are of foreign extraction, and received their dramatic tuition under foreign masters. It must however be acknowledged, that never did instinct make a nearer approach to reason, than in the various exertions of this groupe of the canine race; insomuch, that the rational and the animal properties, seemed so jumbled together, that it was difficult even in idea to separate the one from the other.

They personated their various characters, in the little drama they sustained, with wonderous aptitude, attended to every gesture with singular nicety, made their bows and their congées with all the precision of a French dancing-master, and observed their entrances and their exits as exactly as if they had attended the theatrical academy in Drury Lane for a series of time. In short, they exhibited in full display of character, the gentleman, the beau, the lover, the soldier, the valet, and the chairman of the one sex; and the lady, the flirt, the waiting woman, and the drudge of the other. The characters were dressed in the habits of the times, and I could not help entertaining an opinion that I had seen much inferior actors, who lay claim to reason and humanity.

Then

Then it ſeems, ſaid a bye-ſtander, that our players of the biped race, are many of them trained or formed to the various manœuvres of their arts, as well as thoſe quadruped actors.—Doubtleſs, replied his next neighbour, they are moulded, as the modeller faſhions the pliant clay, their motions, their geſtures, and manner in general, are founded on mechanical principles; and that which appears the effect of nature is often the meer reſult of art.—This ſuggeſted to my memory that very pertinent remark of the prince of Dramatiſts,

"That all the world's a ſtage, and all the
"men and women merely players."—

But while I am upon the ſubject of the docility of animals, I can by no means paſs unnoticed an inſtance of that kind which appeared to me infinitely to ſurpaſs all that I had ever ſeen or heard of before.—As I was walking towards Whitehall, I obſerved a number of people crowding the paſſage of a houſe in that neighbourhood, indicating by their looks, that they waited admiſſion to ſome curious exhibition. Caſting my eye to the front of the houſe, I obſerved a board inſcribed,

THE WONDERFUL LEARNED PIG.

Well, thought I, it may be truly ſaid, that wonders will never ceaſe. We may now, with propriety, adopt the language of that pretender of all pretenders, Katterfelto, and exclaim, Wonders! Wonders! and more Wonders!

Wonders! Men have traverſed the regions of the air; Horſes have fetched and carried, laid down and riſen up, nodded the affirmative or the negative, and footed it to given numbers at the word of command. Dogs have aped humanity, and repreſented various ſcenes which occur amongſt us rationals, with aſtoniſhing adroitneſs, and thereby convinced me there is not that remote diſtance between inſtinct and reaſon, which many have imagined and would ſuggeſt.

But here, in this inſtance, all former efforts muſt be outdone. What! can it be poſſible that the moſt filthy, ſluggiſh, and groſs of all animals, ſhould be rendered tractable, alert, and diſcerning?

Determined, however, to have occular demonſtration of the wonderful feats of this wonderful Pig, I entered the room with the crowd, and was equally ſurprized and diverted with his ſkill in the ſelection and arrangement of letters to compoſe any given names. The animal appeared to be rather ſtinted in allowance, than gorged agreeably to natural inclination, from whence I inferred the proprietor had adopted as a maxim, that a planitude in the belly would diſqualify his pupil for adherence to diſcipline, and the due execution of that for which he had pledged himſelf to the public.

The renown of this prodigy of animals is ſo eſtabliſhed, as I am informed, that the proprietor is rapidly amaſſing a fortune, thro' the ſway of faſhion, as it would be qui-

monſtrous and ill-bred not to follow the *ton*, and go to ſee the wonderful Learned Pig; it being the trite queſtion in all polite circles, Pray, my Lord, my Lady, Sir John, Madam, or Miſs, have you ſeen the Learned Pig? if anſwer is given in the affirmative, it is a confirmation of taſte; if in the negative, it is reprobated as an odious ſingularity!

Having indulged our paſſion for novelty in common with the herd of fellow-mortals, in the ſeveral inſtances already ſpecified, I retired, with my friend, to a place of refreſhment, where we might have an opportunity of taking a retroſpect of the different ſcenes, and making ſuch obſervations as would conduce to entertainment or inſtruction.

" It is an excellent remark (obſerved my friend) that we all have our toys from the cradle to the grave, and that of courſe, though arrived to years of maturity, we can only be ſtiled children of a larger growth. The mind ſtands in need of conſtant amuſement, and the ſource of that amuſement muſt be derived from reflection on ſubjects, or the view or poſſeſſion of objects, that are moſt conſentaneous to our ſeveral propenſities and inclinations. Each individual has his hobby-horſe, or darling foible, to indulge himſelf in, for which he will ſacrifice every other conſideration. As however objects, when attained, ceaſe to have their wonted attraction, and the mind becomes appalled by repeated enjoyment; it of courſe wanders in ſearch of novelty and the charms of variety;

ſo

ſo that as infants cry for every new toy they ſee, the children of a larger growth (as I ſtiled them before) are conſtantly tormenting themſelves with anxious wiſhes for the obtaining of a ſomething, on which, according to the common phraſe, "they have ſet their minds;" but being once obtained, away ſtarts fancy in queſt of another ſomething; and then another, and another after that, and the laſt bauble is as pleaſing as the former, till the curtain drops, and thus ends the farce.

Being amuſed with my friend's very pertinent reflections, together with curſory obſervations of ſome of the company; the time paſt away pleaſingly and inſenſibly, ſo that I found, to my great ſurprize, in going out, a ſudden tranſition from candle-light to day-light; the guardians of the night exclaiming "paſt three o'clock." This buſtling town had the appearance of hurry and buſineſs, even at ſo early an hour.

As a ſentimental peripatetic, I cannot but behold with concern, the ſpirit of pride, luxury, profuſion, vanity, and corruption, which prevails throughout the kingdom in general, and the metropolis in particular, the effects of which are too univerſally felt by all ranks and degrees of the community. This metropolis is not only an epitome of the world, but a characteriſtical diſplay of the manners of the nation; and it muſt be confeſſed, by every ingenious obſerver, that the ſource of all our evils, whether perſonal

or

or natural, ariſes from one corrupt fountain, even that of our vices It is therefore ſincerely to be wiſhed, that the fate of the Roman Empire, which fell by luxury, may warn *us* of theſe kingdoms to ſhun their example, leſt we ſhould be involved in the ſame ruin and diſgrace, which a ſimilar attachment muſt inevitably entail.

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